

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING

MAY 7, 1998

**THOMAS M. GATTLE, JR.
CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808
For more information, call (504) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
MAY 7, 1998

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Chairman Tom Gattle presiding.

Thomas Kelly
Bill Busbice
Danny Babin
Norman McCall
Jerald Hanchey

Secretary James Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioner Glynn Carver was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **April 2, 1998 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Babin and seconded by Commissioner McCall. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Gattle then asked for **Public Comments on the 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons**. Mr. Lemmy Walker, owner of property in Tangipahoa Parish, presented petitions on the running of deer dogs. He then asked the Commission to designate the area a still hunting only area for deer. Mr. Walker felt the problem has escalated over the last several years. Chairman Gattle asked where was the area? Mr. Walker stated the area is 16 square miles, then proceeded to read the description.

Mr. Phil Bowman, Fur & Refuge Division, asked the Commission to consider a proposal for the Atchafalaya Delta WMA. He asked that a regulation be included in the hunting pamphlet prohibiting the use of ATV's on this WMA. Chairman Gattle stated this proposal was supported by the Wildlife, Enforcement, Fur and Refuge Divisions as well as the Hunting Regulations Committee of the Commission. He then announced this was being presented as a notice for the public to comment on until the rule was finalized.

Commissioner Busbice asked the Commission to change the leaving of a permanent deer stand in a wildlife management area for a season. He wanted it where a deer stand would have to be removed daily. Commissioner Busbice made a motion defining a permanent stand in a WMA as "any structure and/or material used for concealment while hunting completely removed from a wildlife management area daily." Chairman Gattle asked if he was making a formal motion that stands shall not be permanently put in WMAs and that they should be taken out daily? Commissioner Busbice answered yes. Commissioner Babin then asked if it was appropriate to make

a motion or should it be a recommendation? Mr. Don Puckett stated it was possible for the Commission to put hunters on notice if this is their intent with regards to the stands. Commissioner Babin stated, at the March Meeting, two proposals were presented, and Mr. Puckett commented the Notice of Intent could not contain both proposals on the deer stands. Then Commissioner Babin stated the final rule would be voted on in July, but if this was voted on during the May meeting, it would override that one segment of the regulations when it should not be voted on until July. Chairman Gattle stated the Commission voted to leave the law as it exists now in order to receive public comment. He then suggested if the Commission wanted to make a change, it should be in the form of a recommendation. Mr. Puckett suggested maybe passing a resolution stating the Commission's intent and did not suggest amending the Notice of Intent. Chairman Gattle stated the Commission can make a motion at the July Meeting and then take final action at that meeting. Commissioner Busbice apologized and stated he wanted it to be for public comment. He then withdrew his motion.

Mr. Gary Lester presented a **Report on the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Conservation Plan**. The red-cockaded woodpecker is an endangered bird, being about 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long, with a white spot on the side of the face and a tuck of red feathers in the head region behind the eye. This bird is the only woodpecker in North America that excavates nesting and roosting cavities in living long-leaf pine trees. The red-cockaded woodpecker is a social animal, living in groups with a single-mated pair with 4 male helpers. Historically, the birds were found from Texas up the east coast to New Jersey. The primary areas for the woodpecker in Louisiana is Fort Polk and Kisatchie National Forest, but are scattered around Lake Pontchartrain and the northern and central areas of Louisiana. Mr. Lester then explained how private or state-owned landowners could benefit the woodpecker through voluntary efforts. The landowners would enter into a cooperative agreement that would manage and develop appropriate habitat for the birds. In return, the landowner is relieved of any additional responsibilities as far as the Endangered Species Act is concerned once the agreement is signed. This plan is targeting those landowners that may have woodpeckers present or may eventually have the birds on their lands. A draft habitat conservation plan has been developed with the hope that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will issue a 99 year permit to implement the plan. The Department will then contact interested landowners to discuss the plan, conduct a survey to identify how many groups of red-cockaded woodpeckers they have, the landowner will then voluntarily sign the agreement, and then implement the habitat improvement plans on their land. The landowner can terminate the agreement with a 45 day notice to the Department. The benefits of the plan were explained by Mr. Lester. The first meeting between corporate timber landowners, private timber landowners, state agencies, conservation organizations and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be conducted soon to go over the plan and to receive input from the public. This item was

presented only for information and did not require any action by the Commission, stated Mr. Lester.

A Declaration of Emergency - Setting 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season was given by Mr. Mark Schexnayder. He began thanking the biologists and technicians for their help with the samples. Also, he thanked the clerical staff and administrators from the Marine Fisheries Division. The presentation began with overheads on Louisiana landings by month comparing 1996 with 1997; Louisiana shrimp landings, heads-on since 1980; catch versus landings; gear license sales by year, dropping another 2 percent for 1997.

The next series of overheads were on the environmental parameters that may indicate the brown shrimp production for this year. They included rainfall for southeast Louisiana; rainfall for 1997 and the beginning of 1998 for southeast Louisiana; Mississippi River discharge for good and bad shrimp years; Mississippi River discharge for 1997 and 1998; 1997 versus 1998 water temperature comparison for south Barataria Bay; April daily water temperature comparison for the years 1997 and 1998; March and April 1998 tidal range; north Barataria Bay salinities comparing 1997 with 1998; available acreage line for April; and cumulative postlarval catch. Then shown was data from 6' trawl samples taken in Barataria Bay beginning with work week 14; catch per effort for work week 18; size of shrimp taken with 6' trawls in the Barataria Bay system; and the size of shrimp statewide. A map of the three zones was then shown which helps the Department manage the state better when necessary. Shown next were overheads on the projection of growth for brown shrimp in Zones 1, 2 and 3; and the projected tides for May at Barataria Pass. Chairman Gattle thanked Mr. Schexnayder for his presentation. He then opened the meeting for public comments.

Mr. Roland Trosclair, from Cameron, Louisiana, stated he wanted Zone 3 to open on May 25th. He explained there was a new moon on the 25th and it would still allow harvesting of over wintering white shrimp.

Mr. Pete Gerica, Lake Pontchartrain Fisherman's Association, stated his organization voted to open Zone 1 as late as possible or by June 1st. Zone 1 has extremely fresh water and the shrimp have not moved into the system like it usually does by now, stated Mr. Gerica. An early opening would hurt them. Mr. Gerica then speaking for Mr. George Barisich, stated he would like to see a later date for Zone 1 rather than a statewide opening.

Mr. Bill Dekemel, East Bank Commercial Fisherman's Association, stated the general data shows good recruitment and size east of the River. His organization, representing the eastern portion of Zone 1, felt there were problems with salinity and temperature. The graphs on river discharge and rainfall does not reflect what has occurred in his area. He felt the projected size of the shrimp in his area was an unrealistic guess. A

representative vote from his organization requested the latest date possible. For Zone 1, Mr. Dekemel recommended opening the season no earlier than June 1st.

Chairman Gattle then asked Mr. John Roussel to give the Department's recommendation for opening the shrimp season. Mr. Roussel stated the traditional management tool used in setting the opening dates has been 50 percent--100 count criteria. The 50 percent criteria dates for Zones 1 and 2 will be May 21 and then May 30 for Zone 3. He then explained the Commission could go with a statewide opening or zone openings. Commissioner Babin stated from the information he has, Zones 1 and 2 mirror each other. Mr. Roussel stated there was no difference in the size of the crops in Zones 1 and 2. Commissioner Babin asked Mr. Dekemel, even though the Spillway was opened last year, did they not have as good a year as ever? Mr. Dekemel stated no, the watershed area of Lake Pontchartrain and eastern area of Lake Borgne had a terrible season due to the recruitment not reaching that area. Then he stated that Zones 1 and 2 do not mirror each other because recruitment has not occurred in Zone 1. Mr. Dekemel stated the major part of recruitment comes in much later than Zone 2 and continues much longer than the other areas. Mr. Roussel explained peak times for recruitment occurs from March through May and the different zones were created because of the different times of recruitment. The evidence from east of the River showed a significant recruitment occurred at the same time as the central coast which is early for Zone 1. Mr. Roussel then stated a lot of things can change, such as environmental conditions and recruitment, before the season actually opens. Chairman Gattle asked if Zone 2 was an issue that needed to be considered? Mr. Roussel stated the law says Zone 2 must open no later than the 3rd Monday in May, which this year is May 18. Chairman Gattle stated in keeping with Monday openings and the 50 percent criteria, for Zone 1 the opening could be May 25 and for Zone 3, it would be June 1. Commissioner Babin asked if, historically, when an opening occurs, were the shrimp numbers and sizes higher than predicted? Mr. Roussel answered yes. Then Commissioner Babin asked if the Department was taking a conservative approach? Mr. Dekemel stated the fishermen's gear was different from what the Department pulls for their samples. The shrimpers loose the resource when they have to pull the larger webbing and the smaller shrimp go through it and are killed. Mr. Dekemel felt an additional 5 or 6 days would allow those smaller shrimp to get big enough to survive the webbing or even be large enough to keep. Commissioner Babin stated, when the season opened because of a certain size, the staff was criticized for not opening the season sooner because the shrimp was larger. No one knows what the weather will be from now until the opening of the season, stated Commissioner Babin. The season is set based on historical data, taking samples the same way each year and from the same area which gives the Department creditability. Then Commissioner Babin asked, if the shrimp are small in a certain area, do the shrimpers have to fish in that area or can they go to another area? Mr.

Dekemel stated the boats will move to where the shrimp are. He then stated he did not want to have the season open during the week. Again Mr. Dekemel requested opening the season for Zone 1 on June 1st. Commissioner Babin stated there was no push for a statewide opening. But if the Commission went with the biological data, it shows Zones 1 and 2 mirror each other. Mr. Dekemel responded saying the fishermen have to make a living based on the Commission's decision and 4 or 5 days makes a big difference in the size of the shrimp.

An Unidentified Speaker from Delcambre stated if you open Zone 2 too late, the shrimp will flush out and once they move out they will be caught by the larger boats. This does not occur in Zone 1 where the shrimp stays in the marsh areas of Lake Borgne.

Commissioner Babin asked, in years past, has the Department closed the season but left Breton and Chandeleur Sounds open? Mr. Roussel stated, during the 1997 fall season, the Sounds were left open because of pink shrimp occurring in that area. Then he asked Commissioner Babin if he was asking if Zone 1 has ever been split and treated differently? Breton and Chandeleur Sounds have been managed differently because it is all open waters. Commissioner Babin asked if the Sounds were the parts that mirrored Zone 2 and not the upper area around Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne? Mr. Roussel stated that was not true, the data presented was for all of Zone 1, not just Breton and Chandeleur Sounds. To answer a question from Commissioner Babin on recruitment, Mr. Roussel stated recruitment of shrimp was to the marsh and not to open waters. Commissioner Babin asked, since there was a legal description used in closing Zone 1 and leaving the Sounds open, could it also be used when opening the shrimp season from a biological and enforcement standpoint? After speaking with representatives of Enforcement, Mr. Roussel stated, in an effort to accommodate the industry, the agents could enforce the Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as a different unit and have a different opening date from the rest of the zone. Chairman Gattle asked if the line was legally defined? Mr. Roussel answered yes. Commissioner Babin then asked for public comments on the proposed splitting of Zone 1.

Mr. Bill Dekemel stated the double rig line does not include the inside area between the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) and the River. Then he stated they have made recommendations to open Study Area 2, which is from the MRGO west to the Mississippi River itself, along with Zone 2. Mr. Dekemel stated they did not have a problem with the inside-outside line and if it was the only option to keep the inside waters closed for another week, he would go for it. Mr. Roussel stated the MRGO line would be more problematic for Enforcement because it includes marsh areas, whereas the Sound line is already established.

An Unidentified Speaker from Delacroix Island, stated they could not work the first 2 weeks of last year because the shrimp were too small. He asked for the latest date as possible.

Mr. Pete Gerica stated the small boat fishermen do not travel, they will shrimp an area simply because the season is open. He then asked to give the shrimp more time to grow so the fishermen can earn more money and the State will have better revenues.

An Unidentified Speaker from Cypremort Point felt opening Zone 2 on May 18th was fair. Then he stated, he fished Lake Borgne last year and they had good shrimp early, but the fresh waters came down and washed them out. He stated he did not see where opening Zone 1 a week or two weeks later would hurt so they could have nice shrimp to harvest. The gentleman then noted you can not please all the shrimpers because there are too many.

Chairman Gattle stated the Legislature will not allow opening Zone 2's season any later than May 18th. The biological data for Zones 1 and 2 are very similar. Then as a compromise, Chairman Gattle stated Zone 1 could be separated by the double rig line and open the eastern portion of the Sounds about the same time as Zone 2. Then west of that line in Zone 1, the season may open one week later. For Zone 3, the opening may occur at the same time as the western portion of Zone 1 on May 25 or June 1st.

Commissioner McCall stated the shrimp in Zone 3 would be at 18 percent on May 25 and 67 percent on June 1st. He then recommended opening Zone 3 on May 25. Chairman Gattle reminded Commissioner McCall the 50 percent criteria for Zone 3 would be reached on May 30.

Mr. John Roussel stated a portion of the offshore waters off of Vermilion Bay was currently closed. He suggested opening the offshore waters at the same time as the inshore waters in the same area. Commissioner Babin made a motion to open Zone 1 inside the double rig line on May 25; outside the double rig line on May 18, Zone 2 on May 18 with the simultaneous opening of the 3-mile zone; and Zone 3 on May 25. Commissioner McCall seconded the motion. Mr. Roussel asked, for sake of clarity, if he could read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of a Resolution which would restate Commissioner Babin's motion. Chairman Gattle then stated the Commission should make a motion to approve the Resolution as presented by Mr. Roussel. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was also seconded by Commissioner McCall. Mr. Roussel then read the Be It Further Resolved portion of the Resolution as it pertained to closing the season. Commissioner Babin stated his motion still stands. Commissioner McCall also seconded. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season

WHEREAS, the traditional management criteria used by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in recommending the opening dates for the spring inshore shrimp season are based on the population of shrimp in each zone reaching such a size that 50% or more of the shrimp are 100 count per pound or larger, and

WHEREAS, current biological data project that at least 50% of the 1998 brown shrimp crop will meet the 100 count per pound management criteria in shrimp management Zone 1 by May 21, 1998, in Zone 2 by May 21, 1998 and in Zone 3 by May 30, 1998, and

WHEREAS, Act 871 of the 1997 Legislature mandates the opening of Zone 2, no later than the third Monday in May in 1998,

WHEREAS, on April 6, 1998 the Commission had closed that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby opens the spring inshore shrimp season in Zone 1 at 6 a.m., May 25, 1998, except the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76:VII.307D) which shall open at 6 a.m., May 18, 1998, in Zone 2 and that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside shrimp line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou at 6 a.m., May 18, 1998 and in Zone 3 at 6 a.m., May 25, 1998.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby grants to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the authority to close any portion of Louisiana's inshore waters to protect small white shrimp if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters, and R.S. 56:497.A(2) which provides that the season in Zone 2 shall open no later than the third Monday in May in 1998, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season to open as follows:

Zone 1, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the Mississippi State line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River, to open at 6 a.m., May 25, 1998, except the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76:VII.307D) which shall open at 6 a.m., May 18, 1998, and

Zone 2, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, as well as that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to Freshwater Bayou, all to open at 6 a.m., May 18, 1998, and

Zone 3, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island westward to the Texas State Line, to open at 6 a.m., May 25, 1998.

The Commission also hereby grants to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the authority to close any portion of the State's inshore waters to protect small white shrimp if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Reconvening from a break, Chairman Gattle went back to the agenda item, **Public Comments on the 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons**. Mr. Dean Richard, an ATV dealer in Lafayette, stated they

were concerned with the proposal to limit the size of ATV's on a Wildlife Management Area. He could not see any correlation between the displacement of an engine and damage done on terrain. Horsepower, riding technique and type of tires could play a part in damaging terrain. If the proposal was approved, this could be detrimental to his business as well as revenue to the State through taxes. Commissioner Babin asked if displacement and horsepower equate? Mr. Richard stated no, not in ATV's. The larger displacement engine units are made for utility use and the larger tires absorb the weight of the engine so it does not do as much damage to the terrain. If there is a problem with terrain, types of tires and aggressiveness of the tread patterns as well as other issues should be considered. Mr. Richard offered his input to find a solution to the problem. Chairman Gattle stated he would like to have their input because the damage and maintenance on the roads was a real problem. Mr. Richard asked if the problem was occurring strictly on roads and not to the trails? Mr. Tommy Prickett stated the ATVs are allowed on a majority of the 1.3 million acres of Department lands. The problem is damage on the ATV trails and the habitat damage surrounding the trails. The staff is looking for input to solve the problem and the proposal to limit ATVs to 400 cc may not be the answer, stated Mr. Prickett. Commissioner McCall asked if the physical weight of the whole unit is what was tearing up the roads? Mr. Prickett stated rider behavior and size and weight of the machine was the problem. He then gave a brief history on the WMA trail system and concluded stating the staff was looking for help in fixing the problem.

Mr. Larry Jorgenson, Executive Director of the State Motorcycle and Boat Dealers Association, stated another factor to be considered is the increase in usage of ATVs as well as an increase in the size of the engine. Louisiana per capita is the number 1 state in the Nation for ATV usage. Mr. Jorgenson felt if the wrong solution was implemented, next year you may want to try an even smaller engine size. He offered to get some people together to work with the Department and try to resolve the problem.

Mr. Jim Bliset, District Sales Manager for Polaris Industries, stated Louisiana is a 4-wheeler state. There are approximately 4,000 people that own ATVs over 400 cc and they are being used as utility bikes. There is not a huge difference in weight between a 500 cc Polaris and a 250 cc Suzuki, stated Mr. Bliset. Weight, horsepower and tire size will not benefit the Department if a 400 cc engine was implemented.

Mr. Hugh Bateman stated the public comment process on the hunting seasons is a good way to allow people to make comments before the Commission makes a final decision. He then wanted to let the public know what the Hunting Regulations Committee considered from a recent meeting. It was requested the hunting season for squirrels be extended further into February. The

Committee will wait for final input from the public, but it was anticipated this would be ratified in July. Another change recommended to the Committee was putting portions of Rapides and Vernon Parishes back into deer Area 2 from Area 3 and maintain it as still hunting only. This change may also be ratified at the July meeting. Mr. Bateman, referring to the use of ATVs, stated the purpose for acquiring the WMAs was for wildlife conservation purposes. The need to maintain some type of reasonable rules and regulations on use is a never ending battle. The economics of the Department will not allow the staff to adequately maintain the road systems on the WMAs for the public to use. With an increase in use of ATV's on the roads requires the Department and Commission to address these changes as they come along. Mr. Bateman stated, from discussions with other states, some do not allow ATVs on their property. Public input is welcome, stated Mr. Bateman. Then he asked the industry people to work with the staff and possibly provide a way that will meet the demands of the people in the State. Commissioner McCall asked why were some of the roads not in good condition for use by ATVs? Then he asked if there have been any accidents on the roads being used and is there any liability exposure at all?

Ms. Jena Russell, Polaris dealer, stated she sells ATVs to younger people that can not afford the larger machines. They put aggressive tires on the machines and this allows the riders to go wherever the larger machines go. Ms. Russell felt it was not the engine size or horsepower, but aggressive tires and riders using alcohol and drugs causing the damage.

Commissioner Busbice asked how is it handled when a rider is using an ATV where he should not be or in an improper way? Major Keith LaCaze stated there are designated roads and trails for ATV use and if a rider is off these trails, then a Class II violation is issued. Commissioner McCall asked if there are any speed limits on the roads, and if so, are they posted? Mr. Bateman read a caution statement from the Regulations pamphlet on the recommended speed limit. Commissioner McCall commented the statement is just a recommendation but not enforced. Mr. Bateman stated there are some speed limits posted on a few roads.

Mr. Jerry West, a Polaris dealer, also commented on riders buying larger tires for their machines and these tires can damage the roads if the road is wet. He felt a program that would educate the hunter and make them accountable for damaging the roads should be implemented.

A Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Daily Take, Possession & Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish (Red Snapper Recreational Bag Limit) was presented by Mr. Harry Blanchet. This action is in response to a letter from the National Marine Fisheries Service which reduced the bag limit on red snapper in federal waters from 5 fish to 4 fish per person per day. The

proposed action will enact compatible regulations in state waters for the fishery. Chairman Gattle asked what does TAC mean and why did the National Marine Fisheries Service reduce the TAC from 9.1 million pounds to 6 million pounds? Mr. Blanchet stated the red snapper is an overfished fishery and is in a rebuilding program. In order for the red snapper to be rebuilt, the total allowable catch needs to be constrained within a limit and the shrimp trawl mortality by-catch has to be reduced. Chairman Gattle asked if the by-catch reduction devices (BRD's) was important to the recovery of red snapper? Mr. Blanchet stated the reduction in bag limit may extend the recreational season until sometime in October. Chairman Gattle asked, if the by-catch was reduced to 60 percent, is there a chance the bag limit would increase to 5 fish again, or would it stay at 4 fish? Mr. Blanchet stated he did not intend to request a change back to 5 fish. Commissioner Babin asked if the quota was not reached, the National Marine Fisheries Service could still shut down the fishery for both commercial and recreational? Then he commented this was a step in trying to alleviate a full closure. Mr. Blanchet read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution, Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

REEF FISH RULES - RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

- WHEREAS,** the reef fish fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana are cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council), and
- WHEREAS,** regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and
- WHEREAS,** on April 29, 1998, rules were established by NMFS reducing the recreational bag limit for red snapper harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana from 5 fish to 4 fish per person, and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has received a request from the Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requesting that Louisiana provide regulations compatible with the 4-fish bag limit

being implemented in Federal waters to enhance enforcement efforts, and

WHEREAS, the rule established by NMFS is intended to restrain recreational harvest so that harvest does not exceed the recreational red snapper quota, leading to congressionally mandated closure of the recreational red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, and

WHEREAS, in order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:326.3 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set bag limits for saltwater finfish,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that an Emergency Rule to provide for a 4-fish recreational bag limit for red snapper in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Emergency Rule shall become effective at 12:01 a.m., May 11, 1998, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission also hereby promulgates a Notice of Intent to establish permanent rules through the Administrative Procedure Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this emergency rule, notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statement, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby exercise the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 49:967(D), and pursuant to its authority under R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3 adopts the rule set forth below. This emergency rule is necessary to expedite the enforceability and effectiveness of Federal regulations on the recreational fishery for red snapper, which became effective April 29, 1998. It is therefore in the best interest of the State, and appropriate that these regulations be enacted expeditiously, thereby requiring emergency action. This Declaration of Emergency shall become effective at 12:01 a.m., May 11, 1998 and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until adoption of the final rule, whichever occurs first.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§335. Reef Fish-Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of snapper, grouper, sea basses, jewfish, and amberjack within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

| <u>Species</u> | <u>Recreational Bag Limits</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Red Snapper | 4 fish per person per day |

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24: .

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (Title 76:335.A) modifying the recreational bag limit for red snapper, which is part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the Commission. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:325.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§335. Reef Fish-Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of snapper, grouper, sea basses, jewfish, and amberjack within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

| <u>Species</u> | <u>Recreational Bag Limits</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Red Snapper | 4 fish per person per day |

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., August 4, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

A Notice of Intent on Non-Resident Charterboat License Fees was given by Mrs. Janis Landry. She began stating the Budget Committee of the Commission requested this proposed action. The action will increase the charterboat trip walk-on ticket from \$2.50 to \$15. Commissioner Babin asked if public comments on this proposed action would be for 120 days. Chairman Gattle asked, if this change occurred, would the tickets have to be re-printed? Mrs. Landry answered yes. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Notice of Intent and it was seconded by Commissioner Busbice. This motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to adopt a rule imposing fees for non-resident charter trip fishing licenses.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 4. License and License Fees

§411. Non-resident Charter Trip Fishing License

A. In lieu of the basic recreational fishing license, non-residents may purchase from a licensed charter boat fishing guide, a non-resident charter trip fishing license for a fee of \$15. The license shall be valid only while fishing from a vessel upon which the licensed charter boat fishing guide is present and for the duration of the trip as defined, stated on the face of the license at the time of issuance.

B. The above fee hereby supersedes the fees established for the above license at R.S. 56:302.1.C(2)(c).

C. The effective date of the above fee shall be October 20, 1998.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(28).
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mrs. Janis Landry, Fiscal Section, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., August 4, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Mrs. Wynnette Kees began the Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan stating Act 1465 of 1997 mandated that every State Agency develop a strategic plan by July 1, 1998. The completed plan will be distributed to the Division of Administration, the Planning and Budget Office, the House and Senate Natural Resource Committees, House Appropriations Committee, Senate Finance Committee, the Legislative Fiscal Office, the Legislative Auditor's Office and the Consensus Estimating Conference. The information will be used in the budget process and consideration of sunset review. The Department has conducted 2 full day sessions with the appointed staff and program administrators which resulted in drafting the Department level mission, vision, philosophy and goals. All of the divisions are currently working on developing their missions, goals and objectives and performance indicators. The plan will always be open to refinement and change, stated Mrs. Kees. It is hoped to have a completed draft by June 1st so the Budget Office can review. Chairman Gattle asked when is the plan due? Mrs. Kees stated it is due July 1st, but the Department has a hearing scheduled for May 27th in front of the House Appropriations Committee to present a status report. Chairman Gattle asked if the Commission were to ratify this report, could it be done at the June Meeting? Mrs. Kees stated it would probably still be in draft form. Commissioner Babin stated the Commission does not have to give final approval on this report, it is just a report on the day to day operation of the Department. Secretary Jenkins stated all agencies has to do this report and it was thought the Commission would want to review it and be familiar with it. Chairman Gattle asked if the Commission would have another opportunity to review at the June Meeting? Commissioner Babin commented he was asking if a formal resolution was needed to approve it. Secretary Jenkins stated he was not sure if there was a need for a formal resolution. Commissioner Babin felt the Commission's opinion could enhance the plan. Commissioner Busbice asked how much detail is going into this and is it taking a lot of time and effort? Mrs. Kees explained how this is an extremely complicated process and the document will be several inches thick.

Major Keith LaCaze stated a copy of the **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for April** was provided to each member. He then asked if the Commission wanted to review the report at their leisure? Chairman Gattle stated that was fine. Commissioner Babin asked if there was anything out of the ordinary? Major LaCaze stated the agents concluded some of their covert investigations and arrested 14 people on various charges of illicit sale of game and gamefish and buying commercial fish illegally. On Bodcau WMA, there was a problem with 4-wheelers and ATVs which resulted in about 22 citations being written. Commissioner Babin asked about the status of the officer shot at a few months back. Major LaCaze stated it was still being investigated.

Chairman Gattle then asked for the **Division Report, Urban Wildlife & Nuisance Animal Complaint Program**. Mr. Jimmy Ernst stated the Department established an urban wildlife program in 1994. He then stated he was the only staff for this program and is budgeted strictly from the Habitat Section. The program includes working with homeowners and property owners around residential areas to enhance and improve wildlife habitat. Slide presentations are given to any group that requests it and have included the Audubon Society, Rotary Clubs or school groups. Six publications have been developed and another one is still in the planning stage, stated Mr. Ernst. Corporate landowners, industrial property owners and chemical plants come to Mr. Ernst for assistance in enhancing habitat manipulations so they can receive certification through the Wildlife Habitat Council. Several projects are continuing on the Waddill Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Ernst then explained the permit system for nuisance animal control. Over the past 5 months, an average of 21 nuisance animal complaints have been handled. The number one complaint is with squirrels, followed by armadillos. Mr. Ernst stated he does not physically go out and remove the animals, he provides technical assistance over the phone by teaching someone how to get rid of the problem. He then explained he oversees the Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator permitting system, which was established by the Commission in 1991. There are only 17 operators statewide, working part-time. Some proposed rules and regulations on the Operator program would be forthcoming for the Commission's approval.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **September 1998 Meeting** on Thursday, September 3, 1998 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mr. Pete Gerica asked where do the fishermen go for the education program the Commission discussed a few meetings ago? Then he asked was it the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or the Department of Labor? Secretary Jenkins stated the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is the qualifying agency; a fisherman's name was then submitted to the Department of Labor for training; then the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries pays the bill.

Mr. Mike Fagan, a bowhunter in Louisiana, thanked the Commission for considering eliminating permanent placement of tree stands on WMAs. He felt this should be given serious thought before ratification in July.

Commissioner Kelly stated he has been approached by several commercial fishermen about the possession of redfish for home consumption when they are out fishing. He asked for someone to clarify this for him. Commissioner Babin stated he spoke with Enforcement and felt if a person has a valid Louisiana fishing license, a rod and reel on board, he is still entitled to the same limits as any other recreational fisherman. Mr. Pete Gerica stated he thought there were restrictions on certain nets, such as during the mullet season, or with hoop nets or freshwater gill nets. Secretary Jenkins stated, since no one was available to answer the question, he would get a written response to Commissioner Kelly.

Chairman Gattle stated he has become keenly aware of the budgetary restraints and constraints for the Department and the battle that is involved in getting the proper money to operate. He encouraged the Commission to look at the license fees especially those that have not been addressed since 1987 or before. Chairman Gattle wanted to let it be known that he felt it was important to look at these things for the survival and continuance of the Department in doing their job.

Commissioner Babin asked if Enforcement was available following Executive Session, could Commissioner Kelly's question be answered then? At that point, Major LaCaze came back into the meeting, so Commissioner Kelly asked his question again. Major LaCaze stated as long as the fishermen have a recreational license they can have a limit of 5 fish for each person that is legally licensed on board. The only way to have more than 5 would be off the water. Commissioner Kelly asked about the gear. Major LaCaze stated if they were going to have the fish, they have to show the recreational means. Commissioner Babin asked if any netter can have red fish in their possession, to which Major LaCaze stated no.

Chairman Gattle then stated they were going to go into Executive Session to discuss *Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al.*, 19th JDC. Mr. Don Puckett stated a motion was needed, a second, and a 2/3 vote to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Babin made a motion to go into Executive Session and it was seconded by Commissioner Busbice. This motion passed with no opposition. Following the Executive Session, Mr. Puckett stated the Commission has expressed a desire to address this item publicly in the form of a Resolution. He then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Before it could be considered, a motion and a second was needed to take this up as an agenda item. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept this as an agenda item. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution. The motion was

seconded by Commissioner McCall and it also passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

May 7, 1998


- WHEREAS,** all wildlife in the State including wild white-tailed deer is by law owned by the State in its sovereign capacity, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Constitution grants the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission the exclusive regulatory authority over said wildlife, and
- WHEREAS,** wild animals including wild deer can only be taken or possessed for private use under particular laws and regulations, namely, the provisions of Title 56 of the Revised Statutes and regulations adopted pursuant thereto by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and
- WHEREAS,** hunting is and has always been a highly regulated activity incident to the management, control and conservation of the wildlife resources of the State, and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, along with their predecessor agencies, have always been the exclusive agencies of government designated to manage and regulate all hunting activities in this State, and
- WHEREAS,** the Commission and the Department have a constitutional public trust obligation to manage, protect, preserve and conserve the wildlife resources of the State for the benefit of all of the citizens of the State, and
- WHEREAS,** this Commission strongly objects to any attempt to privatize for commercial gain the wild white-tailed deer of this State, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has attempted through its regulation of deer farming to improperly and illegally regulate hunting activities, and permit the privatization for commercial gain of wild white-tailed deer, and

WHEREAS, this Commission has a legal, ethical, and moral obligation to oppose any such efforts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, through its attorneys, shall continue to oppose by every legal means available to it, including the current lawsuit, any attempt by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry: (1) to regulate hunting activities, or (2) to allow or permit the privatization for commercial gain of any wild white-tailed deer of this State.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

There being no further business, Commissioner Babin made a motion to Adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Busbice.



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

5/20/98

Marianne -

Please review
the attached
minutes..

Thanks,

Susan

5-27-98

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, May 7, 1998

presiding.

Danny Babin
Norman McCall
Jerald Hanchey

Secretary James Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioner Glynn Carver was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **April 2, 1998 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Babin and seconded by Commissioner McCall. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Gattle then asked for **Public Comments on the 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons**. Mr. Lemmy Walker, owner of property in Tangipahoa Parish, presented petitions on the running of deer dogs. He then asked the Commission to designate the area a still hunting only area for deer. Mr. Walker felt the problem has escalated over the last several years. Chairman Gattle asked where was the area? Mr. Walker stated the area is 16 square miles, then proceeded to read the description.

Mr. Phil Bowman, Fur & Refuge Division, asked the Commission to consider a proposal for the Atchafalaya Delta WMA. He asked that a regulation be included in the hunting pamphlet prohibiting the use of ATV's on this WMA. Chairman Gattle stated this proposal was supported by the Wildlife, Enforcement, Fur and Refuge Divisions as well as the Hunting Regulations Committee of the Commission. He then announced this was being presented as a notice for the public to comment on until the rule was finalized.

Commissioner Busbice asked the Commission to change the leaving of a permanent deer stand in a wildlife management area for a season. He wanted it where a deer stand would have to be removed daily. Commissioner Busbice made a motion defining a permanent stand in a WMA as "any structure and/or material used for concealment while hunting completely removed from a wildlife management area daily." Chairman Gattle asked if he was making a formal motion that stands shall not be permanently put in WMAs and that they should be taken out daily? Commissioner Busbice answered yes. Commissioner Babin then asked if it was appropriate to make

a motion or should it be a recommendation? Mr. Don Puckett stated it was possible for the Commission to put hunters on notice if this is their intent with regards to the stands. Commissioner Babin stated, at the March Meeting, two proposals were presented, and Mr. Puckett commented the Notice of Intent could not contain both proposals on the deer stands. Then Commissioner Babin stated the final rule would be voted on in July, but if this was voted on during the May meeting, it would override that one segment of the regulations when it should not be voted on until July. Chairman Gattle stated the Commission voted to leave the law as it exists now in order to receive public comment. He then suggested if the Commission wanted to make a change, it should be in the form of a recommendation. Mr. Puckett suggested maybe passing a resolution stating the Commission's intent and did not suggest amending the Notice of Intent. Chairman Gattle stated the Commission can make a motion at the July Meeting and then take final action at that meeting. Commissioner Busbice apologized and stated he wanted it to be for public comment. He then withdrew his motion.

Mr. Gary Lester presented a ^{on site} ~~Report~~ **Report on the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Conservation Plan.** The red-cockaded woodpecker is an endangered bird, being about 7 1/2" long, with a white spot on the side of the face and a tuck of red feathers in the head region behind the eye. This bird is the only woodpecker in North America that excavates nesting and roosting cavities in living long-leaf pine trees. The red-cockaded woodpecker is a social animal, living in groups with a single-mated pair with 4 male helpers. Historically, the birds were found from Texas up the east coast to New Jersey. The primary areas for the woodpecker in Louisiana is Fort Polk and Kisatchie National Forest, but are scattered around Lake Pontchartrain and the northern and central areas of Louisiana. Mr. Lester then explained how private or state-owned landowners could benefit the woodpecker through voluntary efforts. The landowners would enter into a cooperative agreement that would manage and develop appropriate habitat for the birds. In return, the landowner is relieved of any additional responsibilities as far as the Endangered Species Act is concerned once the agreement is signed. This plan is targeting those landowners that may have woodpeckers present or may eventually have the birds on their lands. A draft habitat conservation plan has been developed with the hope that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will issue a 99 year permit to implement the plan. The Department will then contact interested landowners to discuss the plan, conduct a survey to identify how many groups of red-cockaded woodpeckers they have, the landowner will then voluntarily sign the agreement, and then implement the habitat improvement plans on their land. The landowner can terminate the agreement with a 45 day notice to the Department. The benefits of the plan were explained by Mr. Lester. The first meeting between corporate timber landowners, private timber landowners, state agencies, conservation organizations and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be conducted soon to go over the plan and to receive input from the public. This item was

presented only for information and did not require any action by the Commission, stated Mr. Lester.

A Declaration of Emergency - Setting 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season was given by Mr. Mark Schexnayder. He began thanking the biologists and technicians for their help with the samples. Also, he thanked the clerical staff and administrators from the Marine Fisheries Division. The presentation began with overheads on Louisiana landings by month comparing 1996 with 1997; Louisiana shrimp landings, heads-on since 1980; catch versus landings; gear license sales by year, dropping another 2 percent for 1997.

The next series of overheads were on the environmental parameters that may indicate the brown shrimp production for this year. They included rainfall for southeast Louisiana; rainfall for 1997 and the beginning of 1998 for southeast Louisiana; Mississippi River discharge for good and bad shrimp years; Mississippi River discharge for 1997 and 1998; 1997 versus 1998 water temperature comparison for south Barataria Bay; April daily water temperature comparison for the years 1997 and 1998; March and April 1998 tidal range; north Barataria Bay salinities comparing 1997 with 1998; available acreage line for April; and cumulative postlarval catch. Then shown was data from 6' trawl samples taken in Barataria Bay beginning with work week 14; catch per effort for work week 18; size of shrimp taken with 6' trawls in the Barataria Bay system; and the size of shrimp statewide. A map of the three zones was then shown which helps the Department manage the state better when necessary. Shown next were overheads on the projection of growth for brown shrimp in Zones 1, 2 and 3; and the projected tides for May at Barataria Pass. Chairman Gattie thanked Mr. Schexnayder for his presentation. He then opened the meeting for public comments.

Mr. Roland Trosclair, from Cameron, Louisiana, stated he wanted Zone 3 to open on May 25th. He explained there was a new moon on the 25th and it would still allow harvesting of over wintering white shrimp.

Mr. Pete Gerica, Lake Pontchartrain Fisherman's Association, stated his organization voted to open Zone 1 as late as possible or by June 1st. Zone 1 has extremely fresh water and the shrimp have not moved into the system like it usually does by now, stated Mr. Gerica. An early opening would hurt them. Mr. Gerica then speaking for Mr. George Barisich, stated he would like to see a later date for Zone 1 rather than a statewide opening.

Mr. Bill Dekemel, East Bank Commercial Fisherman's Association, stated the general data shows good recruitment and size east of the River. His organization, representing the eastern portion of Zone 1, felt there were problems with salinity and temperature. The graphs on river discharge and rainfall does not reflect what has occurred in his area. He felt the projected size of the shrimp in his area was an unrealistic guess. A

representative vote from his organization requested the latest date possible. For Zone 1, Mr. Dekemel recommended opening the season no earlier than June 1st.

Chairman Gattle then asked Mr. John Roussel to give the Department's recommendation for opening the shrimp season. Mr. Roussel stated the traditional management tool used in setting the opening dates has been 50 percent--100 count criteria. The 50 percent criteria dates for Zones 1 and 2 will be May 21 and then May 30 for Zone 3. He then explained the Commission could go with a statewide opening or zone openings. Commissioner Babin stated from the information he has, Zones 1 and 2 mirror each other. Mr. Roussel stated there was no difference in the size of the crops in Zones 1 and 2. Commissioner Babin asked Mr. Dekemel, even though the Spillway was opened last year, did they not have as good a year as ever? Mr. Dekemel stated no, the watershed area of Lake Pontchartrain and eastern area of Lake Borgne had a terrible season due to the recruitment not reaching that area. Then he stated that Zones 1 and 2 do not mirror each other because recruitment has not occurred in Zone 1. Mr. Dekemel stated the major part of recruitment comes in much later than Zone 2 and continues much longer than the other areas. Mr. Roussel explained peak times for recruitment occurs from March through May and the different zones were created because of the different times of recruitment. The evidence from east of the River showed a significant recruitment occurred at the same time as the central coast which is early for Zone 1. Mr. Roussel then stated a lot of things can change, such as environmental conditions and recruitment, before the season actually opens. Chairman Gattle asked if Zone 2 was an issue that needed to be considered? Mr. Roussel stated the law says Zone 2 must open no later than the 3rd Monday in May, which this year is May 18. Chairman Gattle stated in keeping with Monday openings and the 50 percent criteria, for Zone 1 the opening could be May 25 and for Zone 3, it would be June 1. Commissioner Babin asked if, historically, when an opening occurs, were the shrimp numbers and sizes higher than predicted? Mr. Roussel answered yes. Then Commissioner Babin asked if the Department was taking a conservative approach? Mr. Dekemel stated the fishermen's gear was different from what the Department pulls for their samples. The shrimpers loose the resource when they have to pull the larger webbing and the smaller shrimp go through it and are killed. Mr. Dekemel felt an additional 5 or 6 days would allow those smaller shrimp to get big enough to survive the webbing or even be large enough to keep. Commissioner Babin stated, when the season opened because of a certain size, the staff was criticized for not opening the season sooner because the shrimp was larger. No one knows what the weather will be from now until the opening of the season, stated Commissioner Babin. The season is set based on historical data, taking samples the same way each year and from the same area which gives the Department creditability. Then Commissioner Babin asked, if the shrimp are small in a certain area, do the shrimpers have to fish in that area or can they go to another area? Mr.

Dekemel stated the boats will move to where the shrimp are. He then stated he did not want to have the season open during the week. Again Mr. Dekemel requested opening the season for Zone 1 on June 1st. Commissioner Babin stated there was no push for a statewide opening. But if the Commission went with the biological data, it shows Zones 1 and 2 mirror each other. Mr. Dekemel responded saying the fishermen have to make a living based on the Commission's decision and 4 or 5 days makes a big difference in the size of the shrimp.

An Unidentified Speaker from Delcambre stated if you open Zone 2 too late, the shrimp will flush out and once they move out they will be caught by the larger boats. This does not occur in Zone 1 where the shrimp stays in the marsh areas of Lake Borgne.

Commissioner Babin asked, in years past, has the Department closed the season but left Breton and Chandeleur Sounds open? Mr. Roussel stated, during the 1997 fall season, the Sounds were left open because of pink shrimp occurring in that area. Then he asked Commissioner Babin if he was asking if Zone 1 has ever been split and treated differently? Breton and Chandeleur Sounds have been managed differently because it is all open waters. Commissioner Babin asked if the Sounds were the parts that mirrored Zone 2 and not the upper area around Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne? Mr. Roussel stated that was not true, the data presented was for all of Zone 1, not just Breton and Chandeleur Sounds. To answer a question from Commissioner Babin on recruitment, Mr. Roussel stated recruitment of shrimp was to the marsh and not to open waters. Commissioner Babin asked, since there was a legal description used in closing Zone 1 and leaving the Sounds open, could it also be used when opening the shrimp season from a biological and enforcement standpoint? After speaking with representatives of Enforcement, Mr. Roussel stated, in an effort to accommodate the industry, the agents could enforce the Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as a different unit and have a different opening date from the rest of the zone. Chairman Gattle asked if the line was legally defined? Mr. Roussel answered yes. Commissioner Babin then asked for public comments on the proposed splitting of Zone 1.

Mr. Bill Dekemel stated the double rig line does not include the inside area between the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) and the River. Then he stated they have made recommendations to open Study Area 2, which is from the MRGO west to the Mississippi River itself, along with Zone 2. Mr. Dekemel stated they did not have a problem with the inside-outside line and if it was the only option to keep the inside waters closed for another week, he would go for it. Mr. Roussel stated the MRGO line would be more problematic for Enforcement because it includes marsh areas, whereas the Sound line is already established.

An Unidentified Speaker from Delacroix Island, stated they could not work the first 2 weeks of last year because the shrimp were too small. He asked for the latest date as possible.

Mr. Pete Gerica stated the small boat fishermen do not travel, they will shrimp an area simply because the season is open. He then asked to give the shrimp more time to grow so the fishermen can earn more money and the State will have better revenues.

An Unidentified Speaker from Cypremort Point felt opening Zone 2 on May 18th was fair. Then he stated, he fished Lake Borgne last year and they had good shrimp early, but the fresh waters came down and washed them out. He stated he did not see where opening Zone 1 a week or two weeks later would hurt so they could have nice shrimp to harvest. The gentleman then noted you can not please all the shrimpers because there are too many.

Chairman Gattle stated the Legislature will not allow opening Zone 2's season any later than May 18th. The biological data for Zones 1 and 2 are very similar. Then as a compromise, Chairman Gattle stated Zone 1 could be separated by the double rig line and open the eastern portion of the Sounds about the same time as Zone 2. Then west of that line in Zone 1, the season may open one week later. For Zone 3, the opening may occur at the same time as the western portion of Zone 1 on May 25 or June 1st.

Commissioner McCall stated the shrimp in Zone 3 would be at 18 percent on May 25 and 67 percent on June 1st. He then recommended opening Zone 3 on May 25. Chairman Gattle reminded Commissioner McCall the 50 percent criteria for Zone 3 would be reached on May 30.

Mr. John Roussel stated a portion of the offshore waters off of Vermilion Bay was currently closed. He suggested opening the offshore waters at the same time as the inshore waters in the same area. Commissioner Babin made a motion to open Zone 1 inside the double rig line on May 25; outside the double rig line on May 18, Zone 2 on May 18 with the simultaneous opening of the 3-mile zone; and Zone 3 on May 25. Commissioner McCall seconded the motion. Mr. Roussel asked, for sake of clarity, if he could read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of a Resolution which would restate Commissioner Babin's motion. Chairman Gattle then stated the Commission should make a motion to approve the Resolution as presented by Mr. Roussel. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was also seconded by Commissioner McCall. Mr. Roussel then read the Be It Further Resolved portion of the Resolution as it pertained to closing the season. Commissioner Babin stated his motion still stands. Commissioner McCall also seconded. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season

- WHEREAS, the traditional management criteria used by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in recommending the opening dates for the spring inshore shrimp season are based on the population of shrimp in each zone reaching such a size that 50% or more of the shrimp are 100 count per pound or larger, and
- WHEREAS, current biological data project that at least 50% of the 1998 brown shrimp crop will meet the 100 count per pound management criteria in shrimp management Zone 1 by May 21, 1998, in Zone 2 by May 21, 1998 and in Zone 3 by May 30, 1998, and
- WHEREAS, Act 871 of the 1997 Legislature mandates the opening of Zone 2, no later than the third Monday in May in 1998,
- WHEREAS, on April 6, 1998 the Commission had closed that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby opens the spring inshore shrimp season in Zone 1 at 6 a.m., May 25, 1998, except the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76:VII.307D) which shall open at 6 a.m., May 18, 1998, in Zone 2 and that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside shrimp line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou at 6 a.m., May 18, 1998 and in Zone 3 at 6 a.m., May 25, 1998.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby grants to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the authority to close any portion of Louisiana's inshore waters to protect small white shrimp if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters, and R.S. 56:497.A(2) which provides that the season in Zone 2 shall open no later than the third Monday in May in 1998, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season to open as follows:

Zone 1, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the Mississippi State line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River, to open at 6 a.m., May 25, 1998, except the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76:VII.307D) which shall open at 6 a.m., May 18, 1998, and

Zone 2, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, as well as that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to Freshwater Bayou, all to open at 6 a.m., May 18, 1998, and

Zone 3, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island westward to the Texas State Line, to open at 6 a.m., May 25, 1998.

The Commission also hereby grants to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the authority to close any portion of the State's inshore waters to protect small white shrimp if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Reconvening from a break, Chairman Gattle went back to the agenda item, **Public Comments on the 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons**. Mr. Dean Richard, an ATV dealer in Lafayette, stated they

were concerned with the proposal to limit the size of ATV's on a Wildlife Management Area. He could not see any correlation between the displacement of an engine and damage done on terrain. Horsepower, riding technique and type of tires could play a part in damaging terrain. If the proposal was approved, this could be detrimental to his business as well as revenue to the State through taxes. Commissioner Babin asked if displacement and horsepower equate? Mr. Richard stated no, not in ATV's. The larger displacement engine units are made for utility use and the larger tires absorb the weight of the engine so it does not do as much damage to the terrain. If there is a problem with terrain, types of tires and aggressiveness of the tread patterns as well as other issues should be considered. Mr. Richard offered his input to find a solution to the problem. Chairman Gattle stated he would like to have their input because the damage and maintenance on the roads was a real problem. Mr. Richard asked if the problem was occurring strictly on roads and not to the trails? Mr. Tommy Prickett stated the ATVs are allowed on a majority of the 1.3 million acres of Department lands. The problem is damage on the ATV trails and the habitat damage surrounding the trails. The staff is looking for input to solve the problem and the proposal to limit ATVs to 400 cc may not be the answer, stated Mr. Prickett. Commissioner McCall asked if the physical weight of the whole unit is what was tearing up the roads? Mr. Prickett stated rider behavior and size and weight of the machine was the problem. He then gave a brief history on the WMA trail system and concluded stating the staff was looking for help in fixing the problem.

Mr. Larry Jorgenson, Executive Director of the State Motorcycle and Boat Dealers Association, stated another factor to be considered is the increase in usage of ATVs as well as an increase in the size of the engine. Louisiana per capita is the number 1 state in the Nation for ATV usage. Mr. Jorgenson felt if the wrong solution was implemented, next year you may want to try an even smaller engine size. He offered to get some people together to work with the Department and try to resolve the problem.

Mr. Jim Bliset, District Sales Manager for Polaris Industries, stated Louisiana is a 4-wheeler state. There are approximately 4,000 people that own ATVs over 400 cc and they are being used as utility bikes. There is not a huge difference in weight between a 500 cc Polaris and a 250 cc Suzuki, stated Mr. Bliset. Weight, horsepower and tire size will not benefit the Department if a 400 cc engine was implemented.

Mr. Hugh Bateman stated the public comment process on the hunting seasons is a good way to allow people to make comments before the Commission makes a final decision. He then wanted to let the public know what the Hunting Regulations Committee considered from a recent meeting. It was requested the hunting season for squirrels be extended further into February. The

Committee will wait for final input from the public, but it was anticipated this would be ratified in July. Another change recommended to the Committee was putting portions of Rapides and Vernon Parishes back into deer Area 2 from Area 3 and maintain it as still hunting only. This change may also be ratified at the July meeting. Mr. Bateman, referring to the use of ATVs, stated the purpose for acquiring the WMAs was for wildlife conservation purposes. The need to maintain some type of reasonable rules and regulations on use is a never ending battle. The economics of the Department will not allow the staff to adequately maintain the road systems on the WMAs for the public to use. With an increase in use of ATV's on the roads requires the Department and Commission to address these changes as they come along. Mr. Bateman stated, from discussions with other states, some do not allow ATVs on their property. Public input is welcome, stated Mr. Bateman. Then he asked the industry people to work with the staff and possibly provide a way that will meet the demands of the people in the State. Commissioner McCall asked why were some of the roads not in good condition for use by ATVs? Then he asked if there have been any accidents on the roads being used and is there any liability exposure at all?

Ms. Jena Russell, Polaris dealer, stated she sells ATVs to younger people that can not afford the larger machines. They put aggressive tires on the machines and this allows the riders to go wherever the larger machines go. Ms. Russell felt it was not the engine size or horsepower, but aggressive tires and riders using alcohol and drugs causing the damage.

Commissioner Busbice asked how is it handled when a rider is using an ATV where he should not be or in an improper way? Major Keith LaCaze stated there are designated roads and trails for ATV use and if a rider is off these trails, then a Class II violation is issued. Commissioner McCall asked if there are any speed limits on the roads, and if so, are they posted? Mr. Bateman read a caution statement from the Regulations pamphlet on the recommended speed limit. Commissioner McCall commented the statement is just a recommendation but not enforced. Mr. Bateman stated there are some speed limits posted on a few roads.

Mr. Jerry West, a Polaris dealer, also commented on riders buying larger tires for their machines and these tires can damage the roads if the road is wet. He felt a program that would educate the hunter and make them accountable for damaging the roads should be implemented.

A Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Daily Take, Possession & Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish (Red Snapper Recreational Bag Limit) was presented by Mr. Harry Blanchet. This action is in response to a letter from the National Marine Fisheries Service which reduced the bag limit on red snapper in federal waters from 5 fish to 4 fish per person per day. The

proposed action will enact compatible regulations in state waters for the fishery. Chairman Gattle asked what does TAC mean and why did the National Marine Fisheries Service reduce the TAC from 9.1 million pounds to 6 million pounds? Mr. Blanchet stated the red snapper is an overfished fishery and is in a rebuilding program. In order for the red snapper to be rebuilt, the total allowable catch needs to be constrained within a limit and the shrimp trawl mortality by-catch has to be reduced. Chairman Gattle asked if the by-catch reduction devices (BRD's) was important to the recovery of red snapper? Mr. Blanchet stated the reduction in bag limit may extend the recreational season until sometime in October. Chairman Gattle asked, if the by-catch was reduced to 60 percent, is there a chance the bag limit would increase to 5 fish again, or would it stay at 4 fish? Mr. Blanchet stated he did not intend to request a change back to 5 fish. Commissioner Babin asked if the quota was not reached, the National Marine Fisheries Service could still shut down the fishery for both commercial and recreational? Then he commented this was a step in trying to alleviate a full closure. Mr. Blanchet read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution, Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

REEF FISH RULES - RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

WHEREAS, the reef fish fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana are cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council), and

WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 1998, rules were established by NMFS reducing the recreational bag limit for red snapper harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana from 5 fish to 4 fish per person, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has received a request from the Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requesting that Louisiana provide regulations compatible with the 4-fish bag limit

being implemented in Federal waters to enhance enforcement efforts, and

WHEREAS, the rule established by NMFS is intended to restrain recreational harvest so that harvest does not exceed the recreational red snapper quota, leading to congressionally mandated closure of the recreational red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, and

WHEREAS, in order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:326.3 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set bag limits for saltwater finfish,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that an Emergency Rule to provide for a 4-fish recreational bag limit for red snapper in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Emergency Rule shall become effective at 12:01 a.m., May 11, 1998, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission also hereby promulgates a Notice of Intent to establish permanent rules through the Administrative Procedure Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this emergency rule, notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statement, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby exercise the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 49:967(D), and pursuant to its authority under R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3 adopts the rule set forth below. This emergency rule is necessary to expedite the enforceability and effectiveness of Federal regulations on the recreational fishery for red snapper, which became effective April 29, 1998. It is therefore in the best interest of the State, and appropriate that these regulations be enacted expeditiously, thereby requiring emergency action. This Declaration of Emergency shall become effective at 12:01 a.m., May 11, 1998 and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until adoption of the final rule, whichever occurs first.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§335. Reef Fish-Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of snapper, grouper, sea basses, jewfish, and amberjack within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

| <u>Species</u> | <u>Recreational Bag Limits</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Red Snapper | 4 fish per person per day |

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24: .

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (Title 76:335.A) modifying the recreational bag limit for red snapper, which is part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the Commission. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:325.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

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AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., August 4, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

A Notice of Intent on Non-Resident Charterboat License Fees was given by Mrs. Janis Landry. She began stating the Budget Committee of the Commission requested this proposed action. The action will increase the charterboat trip walk-on ticket from \$2.50 to \$15. Commissioner Babin asked if public comments on this proposed action would be for 120 days. Chairman Gattle asked, if this change occurred, would the tickets have to be re-printed? Mrs. Landry answered yes. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Notice of Intent and it was seconded by Commissioner Busbice. This motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to adopt a rule imposing fees for non-resident charter trip fishing licenses.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 4. License and License Fees

§411. Non-resident Charter Trip Fishing License

A. In lieu of the basic recreational fishing license, non-residents may purchase from a licensed charter boat fishing guide, a non-resident charter trip fishing license for a fee of \$15. The license shall be valid only while fishing from a vessel upon which the licensed charter boat fishing guide is present and for the duration of the trip as defined, stated on the face of the license at the time of issuance.

B. The above fee hereby supersedes the fees established for the above license at R.S. 56:302.1.C(2)(c).

C. The effective date of the above fee shall be October 20, 1998.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(28).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mrs. Janis Landry, Fiscal Section, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., August 4, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Mrs. Wynnette Kees began the **Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan** stating Act 1465 of 1997 mandated that every State Agency develop a strategic plan by July 1, 1998. The completed plan will be distributed to the Division of Administration, the Planning and Budget Office, the House and Senate Natural Resource Committees, House Appropriations Committee, Senate Finance Committee, the Legislative Fiscal Office, the Legislative Auditor's Office and the Consensus Estimating Conference. The information will be used in the budget process and consideration of sunset review. The Department has conducted 2 full day sessions with the appointed staff and program administrators which resulted in drafting the Department level mission, vision, philosophy and goals. All of the divisions are currently working on developing their missions, goals and objectives and performance indicators. The plan will always be open to refinement and change, stated Mrs. Kees. It is hoped to have a completed draft by June 1st so the Budget Office can review. Chairman Gattle asked when is the plan due? Mrs. Kees stated it is due July 1st, but the Department has a hearing scheduled for May 27th in front of the House Appropriations Committee to present a status report. Chairman Gattle asked if the Commission were to ratify this report, could it be done at the June Meeting? Mrs. Kees stated it would probably still be in draft form. Commissioner Babin stated the Commission does not have to give final approval on this report, it is just a report on the day to day operation of the Department. Secretary Jenkins stated all agencies has to do this report and it was thought the Commission would want to review it and be familiar with it. Chairman Gattle asked if the Commission would have another opportunity to review at the June Meeting? Commissioner Babin commented he was asking if a formal resolution was needed to approve it. Secretary Jenkins stated he was not sure if there was a need for a formal resolution. Commissioner Babin felt the Commission's opinion could enhance the plan. Commissioner Busbice asked how much detail is going into this and is it taking a lot of time and effort? Mrs. Kees explained how this is an extremely complicated process and the document will be several inches thick.

Major Keith LaCaze stated a copy of the **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for March** was provided to each member. He then asked if the Commission wanted to review the report at their leisure? Chairman Gattle stated that was fine. Commissioner Babin asked if there was anything out of the ordinary? Major LaCaze stated the agents concluded some of their covert investigations and arrested 14 people on various charges of illicit sale of game and gamefish and buying commercial fish illegally. On Bodcau WMA, there was a problem with 4-wheelers and ATVs which resulted in about 22 citations being written. Commissioner Babin asked about the status of the officer shot at a few months back. Major LaCaze stated it was still being investigated.

Chairman Gattle then asked for the **Division Report, Urban Wildlife & Nuisance Animal Complaint Program**. Mr. Jimmy Ernst stated the Department established an urban wildlife program in 1994. He then stated he was the only staff for this program and is budgeted strictly from the Habitat Section. The program includes working with homeowners and property owners around residential areas to enhance and improve wildlife habitat. Slide presentations are given to any group that requests it and have included the Audubon Society, Rotary Clubs or school groups. Six publications have been developed and another one is still in the planning stage, stated Mr. Ernst. Corporate landowners, industrial property owners and chemical plants come to Mr. Ernst for assistance in enhancing habitat manipulations so they can receive certification through the Wildlife Habitat Council. Several projects are continuing on the Waddill Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Ernst then explained the permit system for nuisance animal control. Over the past 5 months, an average of 21 nuisance animal complaints have been handled. The number one complaint is with squirrels, followed by armadillos. Mr. Ernst stated he does not physically go out and remove the animals, he provides technical assistance over the phone by teaching someone how to get rid of the problem. He then explained he oversees the Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator permitting system, which was established by the Commission in 1991. There are only 17 operators statewide, working part-time. Some proposed rules and regulations on the Operator program would be forthcoming for the Commission's approval.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **September 1998 Meeting** on Thursday, September 3, 1998 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mr. Pete Gerica asked where do the fishermen go for the education program the Commission discussed a few meetings ago? Then he asked was it the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or the Department of Labor? Secretary Jenkins stated the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is the qualifying agency; a fisherman's name was then submitted to the Department of Labor for training; then the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries pays the bill.

Mr. Mike Fagan, a bowhunter in Louisiana, thanked the Commission for considering eliminating permanent placement of tree stands on WMAs. He felt this should be given serious thought before ratification in July.

Commissioner Kelly stated he has been approached by several commercial fishermen about the possession of redfish for home consumption when they are out fishing. He asked for someone to clarify this for him. Commissioner Babin stated he spoke with Enforcement and felt if a person has a valid Louisiana fishing license, a rod and reel on board, he is still entitled to the same limits as any other recreational fisherman. Mr. Pete Gerica stated he thought there were restrictions on certain nets, such as during the mullet season, or with hoop nets or freshwater gill nets. Secretary Jenkins stated, since no one was available to answer the question, he would get a written response to Commissioner Kelly.

Chairman Gattle stated he has become keenly aware of the budgetary restraints and constraints for the Department and the battle that is involved in getting the proper money to operate. He encouraged the Commission to look at the license fees especially those that have not been addressed since 1987 or before. Chairman Gattle wanted to let it be known that he felt it was important to look at these things for the survival and continuance of the Department in doing their job.

Commissioner Babin asked if Enforcement was available following Executive Session, could Commissioner Kelly's question be answered then? At that point, Major LaCaze came back into the meeting, so Commissioner Kelly asked his question again. Major LaCaze stated as long as the fishermen have a recreational license they can have a limit of 5 fish for each person that is legally licensed on board. The only way to have more than 5 would be off the water. Commissioner Kelly asked about the gear. Major LaCaze stated if they were going to have the fish, they have to show the recreational means. Commissioner Babin asked if any netter can have red fish in their possession, to which Major LaCaze stated no.

Chairman Gattle then stated they were going to go into Executive Session to discuss *Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC*. Mr. Don Puckett stated a motion was needed, a second, and a 2/3 vote to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Babin made a motion to go into Executive Session and it was seconded by Commissioner Busbice. This motion passed with no opposition. Following the Executive Session, Mr. Puckett stated the Commission has expressed a desire to address this item publicly in the form of a Resolution. He then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Before it could be considered, a motion and a second was needed to take this up as an agenda item. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept this as an agenda item. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution. The motion was

seconded by Commissioner McCall and it also passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

May 7, 1998

- WHEREAS,** all wildlife in the State including wild white-tailed deer is by law owned by the State in its sovereign capacity, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Constitution grants the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission the exclusive regulatory authority over said wildlife, and
- WHEREAS,** wild animals including wild deer can only be taken or possessed for private use under particular laws and regulations, namely, the provisions of Title 56 of the Revised Statutes and regulations adopted pursuant thereto by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and
- WHEREAS,** hunting is and has always been a highly regulated activity incident to the management, control and conservation of the wildlife resources of the State, and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, along with their predecessor agencies, have always been the exclusive agencies of government designated to manage and regulate all hunting activities in this State, and
- WHEREAS,** the Commission and the Department have a constitutional public trust obligation to manage, protect, preserve and conserve the wildlife resources of the State for the benefit of all of the citizens of the State, and
- WHEREAS,** this Commission strongly objects to any attempt to privatize for commercial gain the wild white-tailed deer of this State, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has attempted through its regulation of deer farming to improperly and illegally regulate hunting activities, and permit the privatization for commercial gain of wild white-tailed deer, and

WHEREAS, this Commission has a legal, ethical, and moral obligation to oppose any such efforts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, through its attorneys, shall continue to oppose by every legal means available to it, including the current lawsuit, any attempt by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry: (1) to regulate hunting activities, or (2) to allow or permit the privatization for commercial gain of any wild white-tailed deer of this State.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

There being no further business, Commissioner Babin made a motion to Adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Busbice.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

HUNTING REGULATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

May 7, 1998

Committee members present: Chairman Tom Gattle, Commissioners Bill Busbice and Jerald Hanchey.

Absent from the Committee Meeting: Commissioner Glynn Carver.

Mr. Jerry Goff from Hickory Creek, Inc., demonstrated his Draw-Loc system for archery and asked the Committee to consider approval of his system for Louisiana. After much discussion between all present, it was determined that the Hunting Regulations Committee would not recommend to the Commission that they approve the system. This was based on the fact that it makes a compound bow a vertical crossbow, that the Legislature is opposed to legalizing crossbows for all hunting, and that there was strong opposition by the Bow Hunters Association. Commissioner Busbice made a motion not to change the existing law which would allow this device to be used in Louisiana. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey and passed unanimously.

Mr. Tommy Prickett discussed the responses the Wildlife Division received on ATV restrictions in WMA's. To date no decision has been made by the Wildlife Division for the use of ATV's on WMAs. The problem exists with the destruction of roads but no formal conclusion has been made or how to solve the problem.

Mr. Phil Bowman suggested to the Committee that we close the Atchafalaya Delta WMA to ATV activity due to the delicate nature of the marsh. Commissioner Busbice made a motion to close all ATV activity at the WMA and it was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. This motion also passed with no opposition.

Mr. Tommy Prickett discussed extending the squirrel season in Louisiana by one week. Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to recommend we extend the squirrel season by one week. Commissioner Busbice seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hugh Bateman discussed the desire to change back to deer hunting Area 3 from Area 2, the northeast corner in western Rapides Parish and northeastern Vernon Parish. Last year the Commission voted to change the same area from Area 3 to Area 2. The Committee felt it needed more input before making a decision or recommendation at this time.

Chairman Gattle presented a report on the problem of taking deer with the use of an airplane. It was agreed by Enforcement that they would compose language relating to the law on this issue that can be placed in the 1998-99 Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Hunting Regulations Committee Meeting

May 7, 1998

Tom Gattle, Chairman

In attendance for the committee were Tom Gattle, Bill Busbice, and Gerald Hanchey. A quorum was present.

Jerry Goff from Hickory Creek, Inc. demonstrated his Draw-Loc system for Archery and asked the committee to consider approval of his system for Louisiana. After much discussion between all present it was determined that the Hunting Regulations Committee would not recommend to the Commission that they approve the system. Based on the fact that it makes a compound bow a vertical crossbow, that the Legislature is opposed to legalized crossbows for all hunting, and that there was strong opposition by the Bow Hunting Association. Bill Busbice made a motion not to change the existing law, which would allow this device to be used in Louisiana. It was seconded by Gerald Hanchey and passed unanimously.

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OUTDOORS/FINE POINTS

LWFC sets different opening dates in same shrimping zone

By JOE MACALUSO
Advocate outdoors writer

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission broke tradition Thursday in setting different opening days in the same shrimp zone during its monthly meeting.

Zone I, the shrimping area that runs from the Louisiana-Mississippi state line to the Mississippi River's South Pass, was divided into two areas by the commission for the upcoming spring inshore shrimp season, commonly known as the brown shrimp season.

The unprecedented move opens the brown shrimp season in Breton and Chandeleur sounds at 6 a.m. May 18 while the areas north of these sounds, Lakes Pontchartrain, Borgne and St. Catherine and their surrounding marshes will have a 6 a.m. May 25 opening. It's the first time since the state's inshore waters were divided into three zones that the commission has split an individual zone's opening days.

The commission, bound by a new state law, was forced to open Zone II on May 18. It's the most heavily shrimped area along the state's coastline. Zone II runs from South Pass west to the western shoreline of Vermilion Bay.

Zone III, which runs from Vermilion Bay to the Louisiana-Texas line, has no such mandate and will

open at 6 p.m. May 25, about five days earlier than Department of Wildlife and Fisheries marine biologists said the shrimp in that area would reach 100 count, or 100 to the pound.

"We think it's a good move," commissioner Daniel Babin of Houma said. "We have closed the season in Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne in past years and have left the (Breton and Chandeleur) sounds open. If we can close areas independently of each other, then why can't we open them at different times?"

"It makes sense to me," he said. The Breton and Chandeleur area is often referred to as the "double-trawl" area because two trawls are allowed to be pulled at the same time, a catch method banned in other areas of Zone I.

Babin also said he proposed the same opening days for the Breton and Chandeleur sounds and Zone II, "because the biological information we received is nearly identical for both areas."

The state's Marine Biology Section found overall shrimp production factors better this spring than last, when the brown shrimp season was down 4 million pounds from 1996.

Biologist Mark Schexnayder said that while rainfall was above average for the first four months of the year, Mississippi river discharge

is lower than 1997, and the productive estuaries have benefited from warmer water and increased salinity levels over last year.

Schexnayder said strong southerly winds during March helped push more small brown shrimp into the marshes, and that the state had 1.4 million acres of shrimp nursery grounds compared to 1 million acres in 1997.

The commission also voted in an emergency regulation to limit recreational red snapper catches to four a day per angler in state waters. The move brings Louisiana in line with National Marine Fisheries Service rules that went into effect April 29.

It also voted in a Notice of Intent to raise the non-resident per-trip license fee to \$15.

In other action, the LWFC, after meeting in executive session, approved a resolution calling for Department of Wildlife and Fisheries attorneys to "continue to oppose by every legal means ... any legal attempt by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry to regulate hunting activities or to allow or permit the privatization for commercial game of any wild white-tail deer."

The executive session was called for LDWF attorneys to update commissioners on the status of the department's pending suit against the LDAF.

Advocate news services

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE
TEXAS RANGERS—Placed Of Roberto Kelly on the 15-day disabled list, retroactive to April 28. Recalled RHP Al Levine from Oklahoma of the PCL.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Traded RHP Dane Johnson to the Milwaukee Brewers for future considerations.

National League

CINCINNATI REDS—Activated OF Melvin Nieves from the 15-day disabled list. Placed RHP Marc Kroon on the 15-day DL. Options RHP Todd Williams to Indianapolis of the International League.
NEW YORK METS—Placed INF OF Craig Paquette on the 15-day disabled list. Recalled OF Preston Wilson from Norfolk of the International League.

Atlantic League

NEWBURGH BLACK DIAMONDS—Signed RHP Marshall Boze. RHP Matt Murray, RHP David Myer, LHP Paul Romanoff, OF Mill Anderson, OF Brian Blair and OF Scott Pagano. Sold the contract of OF John Corton to the Chicago Cubs.

Northeast League

ELMHURST PIONEERS—He signed 1B Mike Barnett.
SIOUX CITY EXPLORES—Signed 3B Dee Dalton, 2B/SS Garrett Larkin, 3B/OF Aaron Mitchell and RHP Brian Jordan.

Northwoods League

ST. CLOUD RIVER BATS—Signed OF Mark Campbell.
Texas-Louisiana League
ALEXANDRIA ACES—Signed SS Lipo Nava to a one-year contract.
BAVOU BULLFROGS—Signed 2B-OF Ed Campinello.

FOOTBALL

National Football League
ATLANTA FALCONS—Signed DT Esra Idrissi.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS—Signed OT Jason Matthews to a two-year contract.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Re-signed DE Rich Owens, DT Ryan Kuehl, DE Jamal Duff and PK Scott Blanton to one-year contracts.

HOCKEY

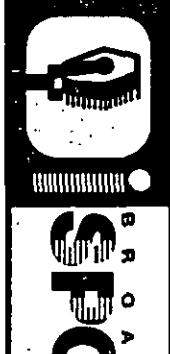
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM MIGHTY DUCKS—Claimed LW Eric LeCompte off waivers from the Chicago Blackhawks.

PHOENIX COYOTES—Promoted Brenda Timmen to senior vice president of marketing and sales. Tim Weil to vice president of corporate sales and Mark Hulse to vice president of broadcasting.

COLLEGE

NCAA—Announced the recertification of the Texas-Pan American athletic program.

SPORTS FINE



Today's Sch

TV

| | |
|------------|------------------------|
| 8 a.m. | Golf, EPGA-Tuespar |
| 11 a.m. | Tennis, ATP-German |
| 11:30 a.m. | Golf, Nike-Carolina C |
| 2 p.m. | Golf, PGA Seniors-Hi |
| 2 p.m. | Giants at Cubs..... |
| 3 p.m. | SEC TV: Skip Bertr |
| 6:30 p.m. | NHL: Canadiens at S |
| 6:30 p.m. | NHL: Blues at Red V |
| 6:35 p.m. | Padres at Braves |
| 7 p.m. | NBA: Bulls at Home |
| 7 p.m. | Monster Truck Chalk |
| 7:30 p.m. | Indians at Rangers .. |
| 9:30 p.m. | Baseball Tonight |
| 9:30 p.m. | NBA: SuperSonics at |
| 9:30 p.m. | White Sox at A's |

Radio

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 10 a.m. | Softball, LSU vs. Ark |
| 7 p.m. | Baseball, LSU at Ole |
| 7:05 p.m. | Astros at Brewers |

All times furnished by and subject to change

HOCKEY

NHL

| | |
|---|-----|
| SECOND ROUND | |
| (Best-of-7) | |
| Thursday, May 7 | |
| Washington 4, Ottawa 2, Washington leads series 1-0 | |
| Dallas 3, Edmonton 1, Dallas leads series 1-0 | |
| Today's games | |
| Montreal at Buffalo, 6:30 p.m. | Har |
| St. Louis at Detroit, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN) | Per |
| Saturday, May 9 | |
| Ottawa at Washington, 6 p.m. | Per |
| Edmonton at Dallas, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN) | Per |
| Sunday, May 10 | |

Golota eases back into boxing contention

By The Associated Press

ATTN: CITY, N.J. — Andrew



The Advocate ONLINE

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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Published on 5/8/98 Archived on 5/8/98

LWFC sets different opening days in one shrimp zone

By JOE MACALUSO

Advocate outdoors writer

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission broke tradition Thursday in setting different opening days in the same shrimp zone during its monthly meeting.

Zone I, the shrimping area that runs from the Louisiana-Mississippi state line to the Mississippi River's South Pass, was divided into two areas by the commission for the upcoming spring inshore shrimp season, commonly known as the brown shrimp season.

The unprecedented move opens the brown shrimp season in Breton and Chandeleur sounds at 6 a.m., May 18 while the areas north of these sounds, Lakes Pontchartrain, Borgne and St. Catherine and their surrounding marshes will have a 6 a.m., May 25 opening. It's the first time since the state's inshore waters were divided into three zones that the commission has split an individual zone's opening days.

The commission, bound by a new state law, was forced to open Zone II on May 18. It's the most heavily shrimped area along the state's coastline. Zone II runs from South Pass west to the western shoreline of Vermilion Bay.

Zone III, which runs from Vermilion Bay to the Louisiana-Texas line, has no such mandate and will open at 6 p.m., May 25, about five days earlier than Department of Wildlife and Fisheries marine biologists said the shrimp in that area would reach 100 count, or 100 to the pound.

"We think it's a good move," commissioner Daniel Babin of Houma said. "We have closed the season in Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne in past years and have left the (Breton and Chandeleur) sounds open. If we can close areas independent of each other, then why can't we open them at different times?"

"It makes sense to me," he said.

The Breton and Chandeleur area is often referred to as the "double-trawl" area because two trawls are allowed to be pulled at the same time, a catch method banned in other areas of Zone I.

Babin also said he proposed the same opening days for the Breton and Chandeleur sounds and Zone II, "because the biological information we received is nearly identical for both areas."

The state's Marine Biology Section found overall shrimp production factors better this spring than last, when the brown shrimp season was down 4 million pounds from 1996.

Biologist Mark Schexnayder said that while rainfall was above average for the first four months of the year, Mississippi river discharge is lower than 1997, and the productive estuaries have benefited from warmer water and increased salinity levels over last year.

Schexnayder said strong southerly winds during March helped push more small brown shrimp into the marshes, and that the state had 1.4 million acres of shrimp nursery grounds compared to 1 million acres in 1997.

The commission also voted in an emergency regulation to limit recreational red snapper catches to four a day per angler in state waters. The move brings Louisiana in line with National Marine Fisheries Service rules that went into effect April 29.

It also voted in a Notice of Intent to raise the non-resident per-trip license fee to \$15.

In other action, the LWFC, after meeting in executive session, approved a resolution calling for Department of Wildlife and Fisheries attorneys to "continue to oppose by every legal means ... any legal attempt by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry to regulate hunting activities or to allow or permit the privatization for commercial game of any wild whitetail deer." The executive session was called for LDWF attorneys to update commissioners on the status of the department's pending suit against the LDAF.

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AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BATON ROUGE, LA

May 7, 1998

10:00 AM

- ✓1. Roll Call
- ✓2. Approval of Minutes of April 2, 1998
- ✓3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
- ✓4. Report on Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Conservation Plan - Gary Lester
- ✓5. Declaration of Emergency - Setting 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season - Mark Schexnayder
- ✓6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Daily Take, Possession & Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish (Red Snapper Recreational Bag Limit) - Harry Blanchet
- ✓7. Notice of Intent - Non-Resident Charterboat License Fees - Janis Landry
- ✓8. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan - Wynnette Kees
- ✓9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/April - Winton Vidrine
- ✓10. Division Reports
 - ✓a. Urban Wildlife & Nuisance Animal Complaint Program - Jimmy Ernst
- ✓11. Set September 1998 Meeting Date
- ✓12. Public Comments
13. Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC (Executive Session)
14. Adjourn

COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, May 7, 1998
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

| | Attended | Absent |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| Tom Gattle (Chairman) | <u>✓</u> | <u>—</u> |
| Tom Kelly | <u>✓</u> | <u>—</u> |
| Daniel Babin | <u>✓</u> | <u>—</u> |
| Glynn Carver | <u>—</u> | <u>✓</u> |
| Bill Busbice | <u>✓</u> | <u>—</u> |
| Jerald Hanchey | <u>✓</u> | <u>—</u> |
| Norman McCall | <u>✓</u> | <u>—</u> |

Mr. Chairman:

There are 6 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.
Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
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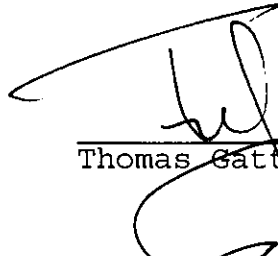
RESOLUTION

REEF FISH RULES - RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

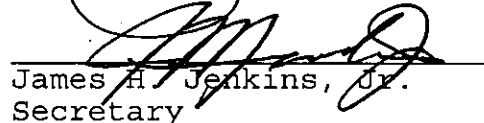
- WHEREAS, The reef fish fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana are cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council), and
- WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and
- WHEREAS, on April 29, 1998, rules were established by NMFS reducing the recreational bag limit for red snapper harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana from 5 fish to 4 fish per person, and
- WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has received a request from the Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requesting that Louisiana provide regulations compatible with the 4-fish bag limit being implemented in Federal waters to enhance enforcement efforts, and
- WHEREAS, the rule established by NMFS is intended to restrain recreational harvest so that harvest does not exceed the recreational red snapper quota, leading to congressionally mandated closure of the recreational red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, and
- WHEREAS, in order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted, and
- WHEREAS, R.S.49:953(B) and R.S.49:967 allow the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and
- WHEREAS, R.S.56:326.3 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set bag limits for saltwater finfish,
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that an Emergency Rule to provide for a 4-fish recreational bag limit for red snapper in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Emergency Rule shall become effective at 12:01 a.m., May 11, 1998, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission also hereby promulgates a Notice of Intent to establish permanent rules through the Administrative Procedure Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this emergency rule, notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.



Thomas Gattle, Jr., Chairman



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby exercise the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 49:967(D), and pursuant to its authority under R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3 adopts the rule set forth below. This emergency rule is necessary to expedite the enforceability and effectiveness of Federal regulations on the recreational fishery for red snapper, which became effective April 29, 1998. It is therefore in the best interest of the State, and appropriate that these regulations be enacted expeditiously, thereby requiring emergency action. This Declaration of Emergency shall become effective at 12:01 a.m., May 11, 1998 and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until adoption of the final rule, whichever occurs first.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§335. Reef Fish-Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of snapper, grouper, sea basses, jewfish, and amberjack within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

Species

Recreational Bag Limits

1. Red Snapper

4 fish per person per day

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24: .

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (Title 76:335.A) modifying the recreational bag limit for red snapper, which is part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the Commission. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:325.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

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| 1. Red Snapper | 4 fish per person per day |

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., August 4, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Recreational Reef Fish Harvest Rules (LAC 76:VII.335)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby exercise the emergency provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 49:967(D), and pursuant to its authority under R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3 adopts the rule set forth below. This emergency rule is necessary to expedite the enforceability and effectiveness of Federal regulations on the recreational fishery for red snapper, which became effective April 29, 1998. It is therefore in the best interest of the state, and appropriate that these regulations be enacted expeditiously, thereby requiring emergency action. This emergency rule shall be effective at 12:01 a.m. May 11, 1998 and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until adoption of the final rule, whichever occurs first.

TITLE 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

CHAPTER 3. SALTWATER SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHERY

§ 335. Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of snapper, grouper, sea basses, jewfish, and amberjack within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

| <u>Species</u> | <u>Recreational Bag Limits</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Red Snapper | 4 fish per person per day |

* * * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996); LR 23: _____ (November, 1997); LR 24: _____ (_____, 1998); LR 24: _____ (_____, 1998).

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (Title 76, Part VII, Ch. 3, Sec. 335(A)) modifying the recreational bag limit for red snapper, which is part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the Commission. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S.56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3. Said Rule is attached to and made a part of this Notice of Intent.

TITLE 76 WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

CHAPTER 3. SALTWATER SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHERY

§ 335. Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish

A. Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of triggerfishes, amberjacks, grunts, wrasses, snappers, groupers, sea basses, tilefishes, and porgies within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

| <u>Species</u> | <u>Recreational Bag Limits</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Red Snapper | 4 fish per person per day |
| * | * |
| * | * |

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996); LR 23: _____ (November, 1997); LR 24: _____ (_____, 1998).

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice

of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to August 4, 1998.

RESOLUTION
1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season

WHEREAS, the traditional management criteria used by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in recommending the opening dates for the spring inshore shrimp season are based on the population of shrimp in each zone reaching such a size that 50% or more of the shrimp are 100 count per pound or larger, and

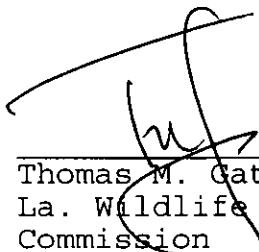
WHEREAS, current biological data project that at least 50% of the 1998 brown shrimp crop will meet the 100 count per pound management criteria in shrimp management Zone 1 by May 21, 1998, in Zone 2 by May 21, 1998 and in Zone 3 by May 30, 1998, and

WHEREAS, Act 871 of the 1997 Legislature mandates the opening of Zone 2, no later than the third Monday in May in 1998,

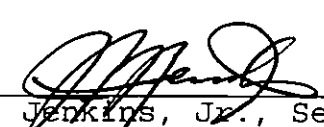
WHEREAS, on April 6, 1998 the Commission had closed that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby opens the spring inshore shrimp season in Zone 1 at 6 a.m. May 25, 1998, except the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76, Part 7, Chapter 3, Section 307D) which shall open at 6 a.m. May 18, 1998, in Zone 2 and that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside shrimp line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou at 6 a.m. May 18, 1998 and in Zone 3 at 6 a.m. May 25, 1998.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby grants to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the authority to close any portion of Louisiana's inshore waters to protect small white shrimp if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters, and R.S. 56:497 A(2) which provides that the season in Zone 2 shall open no later than the third Monday in May in 1998, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season to open as follows:

Zone 1, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the Mississippi State line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River, to open at 6 a.m. May 25, 1998, except the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76, Part 7, Chapter 3, Section 307D) which shall open at 6 a.m. May 18, 1998, and

Zone 2, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, as well as that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to Freshwater Bayou, all to open at 6 a.m. May 18, 1998, and

Zone 3, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island westward to the Texas State Line, to open at 6 a.m. May 25, 1998.

The Commission also hereby grants to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the authority to close any portion of the State's inshore waters to protect small white shrimp if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman

RESOLUTION
1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season

WHEREAS, the traditional management criteria used by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in recommending the opening dates for the spring inshore shrimp season are based on the population of shrimp in each zone reaching such a size that 50% or more of the shrimp are 100 count per pound or larger, and

WHEREAS, current biological data project that at least 50% of the 1998 brown shrimp crop will meet the 100 count per pound management criteria in shrimp management Zone 1 by May 21, 1998, in Zone 2 by May 21, 1998 and in Zone 3 by May 30, 1998, and

WHEREAS, Act 871 of the 1997 Legislature mandates the opening of Zone 2, no later than the third Monday in May in 1998,

WHEREAS, on April 6, 1998 the Commission had closed that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby opens the spring inshore shrimp season in Zone 1 at 6 a.m. May 25, 1998, except the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76, Part 7, Chapter 3, Section 307D) which shall open at 6 a.m. May 18, 1998, in Zone 2 and that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside shrimp line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou at 6 a.m. May 18, 1998 and in Zone 3 at 6 a.m. May 25, 1998.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby grants to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the authority to close any portion of Louisiana's inshore waters to protect small white shrimp if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters, and R.S. 56:497 A(2) which provides that the season in Zone 2 shall open no later than the third Monday in May in 1998, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season to open as follows:

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Zone 3, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island westward to the Texas State Line, to open at 6 a.m. _____, 1998.

The Commission also hereby grants to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the authority to close any portion of the State's inshore waters to protect small white shrimp if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman



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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

fishing line available on the market these days.

Baton Rouge's Jimmy Lasseigne, a tackle manufacturer's representative for 20 years, said he's seen lots of fishermen returning broken rods to stores all over south Louisiana since braided lines were introduced five years ago.

"In two days, I saw a guy from New Orleans bring back two broken rods," Lasseigne said. "I asked him what kind of line he was using, and he told me he was using 50-pound braid, and said he broke the rod when he was setting the hook on a Texas-rigged worm."

"Manufacturers don't make rods designed to handle up to 20-pound test line for 50-pound-test braid, and fishermen need to know that if a label on a rod shows it's made for 10-20 pound lines, that you run the risk of breaking that rod," he explained.

One problem is that these braided lines — and every line manufacturer makes braided line now — claim smaller diameter lines and stronger line-test properties

The problem you'll run into is that it takes more small-diameter line to fill a reel spool. Since this braided line is more expensive than monofilament, and you want to fill your spool for easier casting ability, then you need to wind some monofilament backing on casting reels.

Backing will allow you to buy 100 yards of costlier braided line and fill the spool. Use 30-pound monofilament for the backing, then follow the manufacturer's recommendation for the proper knot to tie the braided line to the monofilament backing.

■ **MORE ON RODS:** Tackle manufacturers also indicate you can overpower fishing line with rods, especially the newer long-handled rods so popular with bass and coastal fishermen these days.

The longer handles give fishermen leverage on the fish they're catching, but can also increase the pressure on the fishing line, much moreso than standard pistol-grip rods.

If you're using a rod with an 8-inch han-

12 inch handle can snap 20-pound monofilament line even with a small fish on the other end of the line.

■ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is looking for volunteers to work at the new Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery's visitor center from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. daily.

The LDWF's Fishery Division have noted an increase in tourists to the hatchery over the last months, and volunteers will be used to guide tours and conduct games and other activities for children.

The hatchery features a Louisiana swamp scene designed to imitate a spawning area for bream, a freshwater bass tank and a brackish-water redfish tank. A river exhibit, which will be home to large blue catfish, is expected to be completed this month.

Catfish will be spawned at the hatchery through June, a process visitors can view from a gallery inside the hatchery.

For details on the volunteer program, call Angela Capello, 318-748-6999.

It's time to prepare for boating safety

and/or blisters. Gasoline and oil can cause all damage to any and all boats and Louisiana waters have enough stumps and snags to punch small holes in hulls.

- Check hoses for cracks. These include all fuel lines, intake hoses for live wells and exhaust hoses for bilge pumps.

- Check automatic switches or bilge pumps to make sure they're in working order. A switch stuck on the "on" position can burn up a pump, not to mention a constant drain on a battery and the chance to burn a wire because of the constant draw on the battery.

- Check battery condition. Cracked battery cases can lead to very damaging leaks. A slow-to-charge battery can also lead to an exasperating trip when you'll spend more time trying to start an outboard than you'll spend fishing.

- Restock your first-aid kit.
- Check anchor chains and lines and check tie-up lines for

wear, and inspect chain and anchor locks. Replace as needed.

- Change lower-unit oil. Most outboard manufacturers suggest this fluid be replaced every six months.

- Check all wiring for chafing, cuts or wear. Replace as needed.

- Walk around your trailer looking for rust and wear. Check out trailer wiring and make sure all lights work. Even if you have "buddy" bearings, it might be the right time to inspect and repack wheel bearings. Check out the rope, wire rope or sling on the winch. Inspect trailer chains for welds or bolts that attach chains to trailer.

- Check on boat papers to make sure they're current.

- Remember, by state law, every trailer has to have an annual inspection sticker similar to the one you need for your vehicle.

OUTDOOR NOTEBOOK

LWFC meeting set today

By **JOE MACALUSO**
Advocate outdoors writer

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meets today at 10 a.m. without two major items on its agenda.

The LWFC was to have heard more on the controversial high-fence deer farming program, but a Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' suit against the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has put that issue on the back burner. The suit is scheduled for May 18 in Judge Janice Clark's court in the 19th Judicial District. The dispute is whether the LDAF or Wildlife and Fisheries has jurisdiction over setting hunting-season dates and bag limits on private deer farms.

The other missing item is the setting of the spring inshore shrimp season's opening day in Zone II. Over the last nine years, the commission had the authority to set the shrimp-season opening days in the state's three shrimping zones. The commission used information from

LDWF biologists to set the season, notably using the dates biologists estimated the brown shrimp to be larger than 100 count, or 100 to the pound.

While there were initial mild protests from Zone II shrimpers in the years since 1989 when the Legislature gave the LWFC the season-setting authority, more vocal protests were lodged in hearings since 1995. The shrimpers complained the LWFC was opening the season too late, and that most of the marketable shrimp had escaped inside waters prior to opening day.

Act 497 of the 1997 State Legislature mandated a two-year trial period for Zone II effective May 15. Zone II's season must open no later than the third Monday in May, in this case May 18, which means Zone II, which runs from South Pass to the western side of Vermilion Bay, will open between May 15 and May 18. The commission will still decide opening dates for Zones I and 3.

The meeting is scheduled for the Louisiana Room at LDWF headquarters on Quail Drive.

The Advocate
Baton Rouge, LA
May 7, 1998



STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

119 W. Nazpique St.
Jennings, Louisiana 70546
Telephone: (318) 824-3979
Fax: (318) 824-5898

DAN W. MORRISH
District 37

Agriculture
Environment
Insurance

May 5, 1998

Norman F. McCall
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission
1171 Marshall Street
Cameron, LA 70631

Via Fax Message (504)765-0948

RE: ATV Engine Size Restrictions

*Each Comm.
Member
received a
letter.*

Dear Norman:

Please accept this letter in opposition to the restriction of ATV engine sizes to 400 cc or less in wildlife management areas. It is my belief that sportsmen of Louisiana have huge dollar investments in ATV of larger engine size. The proposed restriction will cause severe economic loss to both ATV dealers and owners.

I will be happy to work with you and the commission to address the concerns of ATV operation on state wildlife management areas. If I can be of assistance or answer any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dan W. Morrish
State Representative

DWM/jb

cc: James H. Jenkins, Jr./Secretary
Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

The Louisiana House of Representatives



The following document is from:

REPRESENTATIVE DAN MORRISH

District 37

To: Welfare + Fisheries

Date: 5/7/98 Time: _____

Sent by: Jennifer

Number of pages including cover: 8

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CONTACT

Jennifer AT 824-3979. Thank you!

Remarks:

PUBLIC COMMENT
1998-99
Regulations Proposal

ATV Restrictions-

The proposal to limit ATV size to 400cc's resulted in ten letters (3 of these from dealers). For proposal : 4 letters / Against proposal: 6 letters Almost all of the letters also made additional recommendations on how the problem, they all agreed there is a problem, should be fixed. These suggestions were: Restrict to original manufacturers tires- 5

Grandfather in those that already have a bike over 400cc's - 2

Concluded that the riding style was the problem and we should stop reckless and destructive operation- 5

Deer-

Move the portion of Area 2 we changed to Area 3 last year back to Area 2 and make it still hunting only- 3 letters in support including one each from T.L. James, the major landowner in this area, and Sheriff William Hilton of Rapides parish.

Archery deer- Bayou State bowhunters letter opposing the draw-loc system.

One letter each-

Eliminate the late muzzleloader season in Area 6

Prohibit in-line muzzleloaders

Reduce minimum muzzleloader caliber for deer to 40

Add more statewide handicapped deer days

Tagging system for deer to reduce over bagging

Restrict deer harvest to 4 points or better (except for kids)

Reduce the acres required to qualify for DMAP

Retain and Add more lottery days for deer on Sherburne and Thistlethwaite

Make Big Lake WMA and Tensas NWR trophy deer areas(letter said there was a petition with 800 signatures that will be sent to Commission)

Two letters-

Reduce dog hunting days in Area 2

Four letters-

Reduce either sex days for deer

Small Game-

One letter and some phone calls requesting that squirrel season be extended to February 28

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Conservation Plan

SUMMARY

Because of documented population declines and extensive and continuing habitat loss and fragmentation, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) (*Picoides borealis*) was added to the Federal list of endangered species in 1970 and has received protection under the Endangered Species Act, as amended (ESA) since 1973. Maintaining suitable habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) requires active management and associated resources and there is no regulatory penalty for allowing RCW habitat to succeed to unsuitable ecological states, which is what happens when otherwise suitable habitat is simply left alone. As a result of this, RCW declines continue to be documented even under the protection of the current ESA and many active clusters on private land have experienced abandonment. In the absence of natural fires that once maintained RCW habitat, ecological succession leads to mid-story encroachment, culminating in habitat that is unsuitable for RCW.

Private landowners who own land where RCW populations occur are often at a loss as to how to proceed with their land management objectives. In some cases, land management objectives may be incompatible with the RCWs specific habitat requirements of mature pine trees in which to excavate roosting and nesting cavities and sufficient acreage of pine forest nearby in which to forage. Alternately, landowners may wish to manage for old-growth natural communities or long-rotation forests, but feel inhibited from doing so because of liabilities they may incur if their management practices attracted RCWs. This plan seeks to identify those creative and aggressive measures that will relieve private landowner concerns and at the same time, benefit the recovery and long-term survival of the red-cockaded woodpecker. The principal conservation tool presented in this regional habitat conservation plan is the "safe harbor" agreement.

The primary purpose of the safe harbor HCP is to encourage and facilitate the restoration and enhancement of nesting and foraging habitat for the RCW on private, state, parish, and city-owned land in Louisiana. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), in producing this plan, wants to encourage such landowners to undertake voluntary enhancement activities that will benefit the RCW. Under this plan, landowners may voluntarily enter into a cooperative agreement with the LDWF where they agree to undertake proactive management activities designed to enhance RCW habitat. In return, the landowner is

relieved from any additional liability under the ESA beyond that which exists at the time the agreement is signed (referred to as "baseline" responsibilities). Thus, the landowner is given "safe harbor" from added liability.

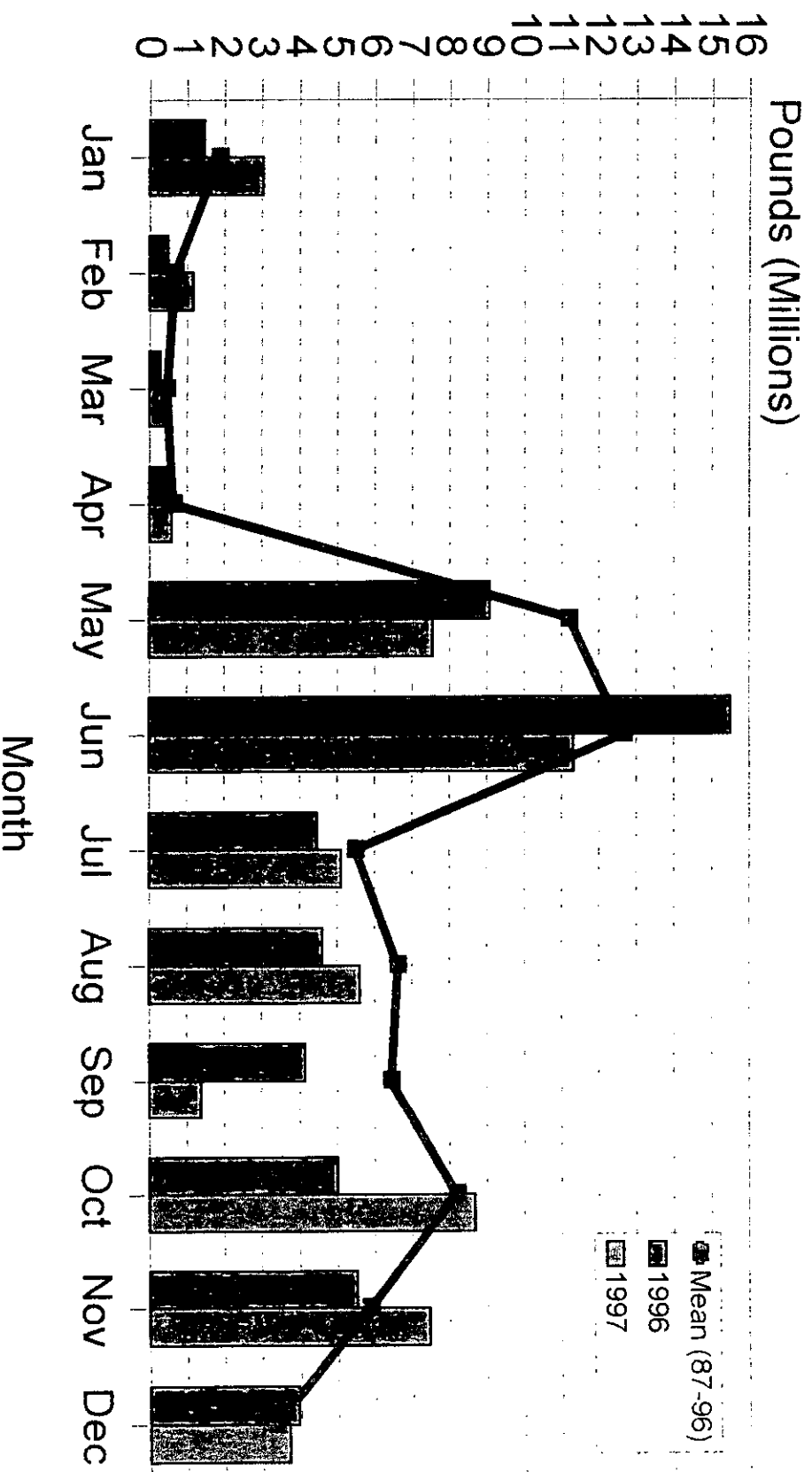
The following benefits are anticipated through the implementation of these two plans: (1) landowners will benefit by lessening and removing disincentives for management of RCW habitat on private land and in some cases by removing land management restrictions placed on land with groups of RCWs; (2) RCWs will benefit by establishing and enhancing viable RCW populations, by helping recovery populations meet recovery goals, (3) both RCW and private landowners will benefit by encouraging forest management practices that promote open fire maintained pine natural communities, and (4) species and natural plant communities found on lands covered by safe harbor agreements will benefit from a shift toward management for more natural desired future conditions.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION

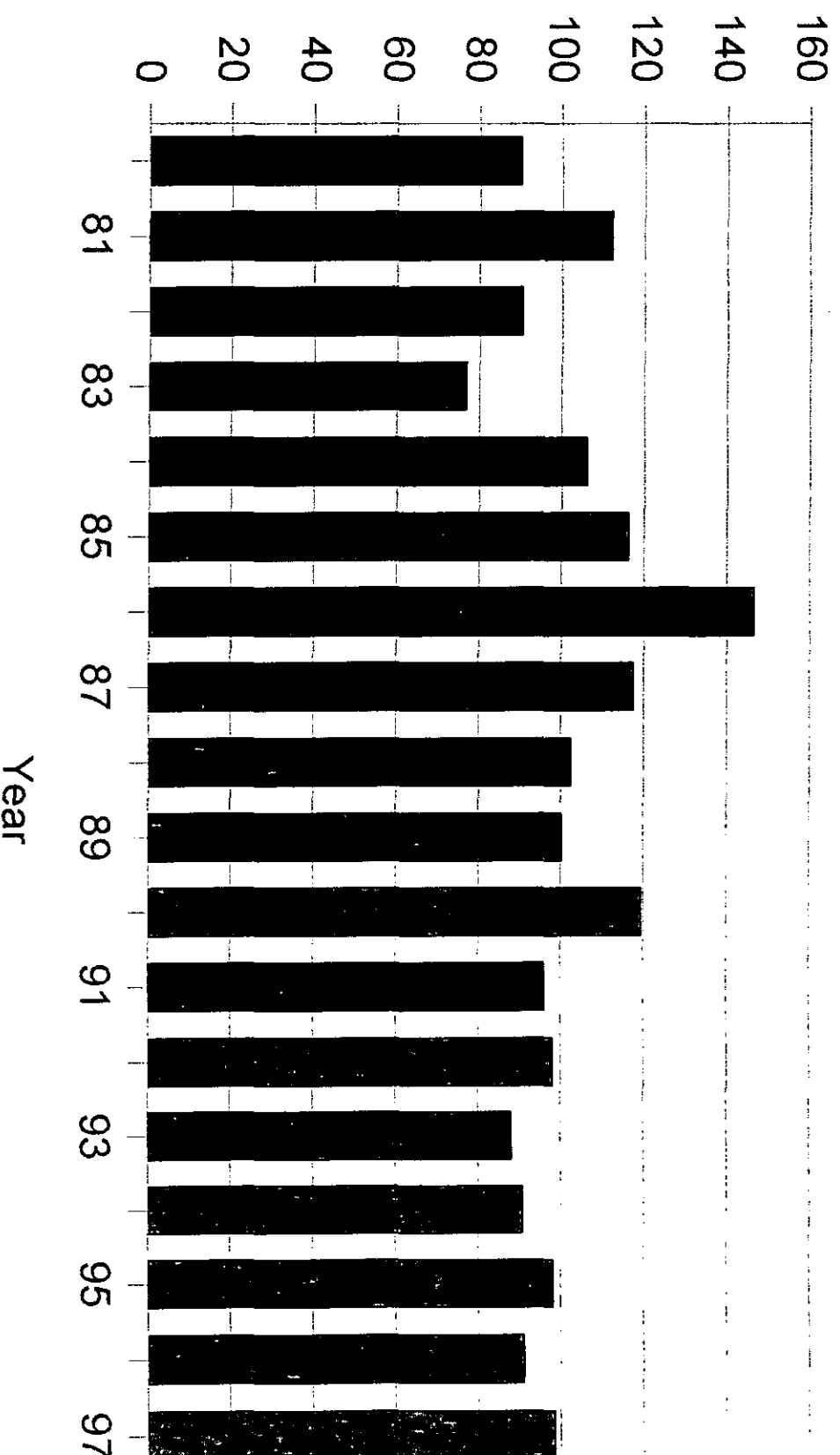


ANNUAL SPRING SHRIMP PRESENTATION
MAY, 1998

Louisiana Landings (Heads-Off)

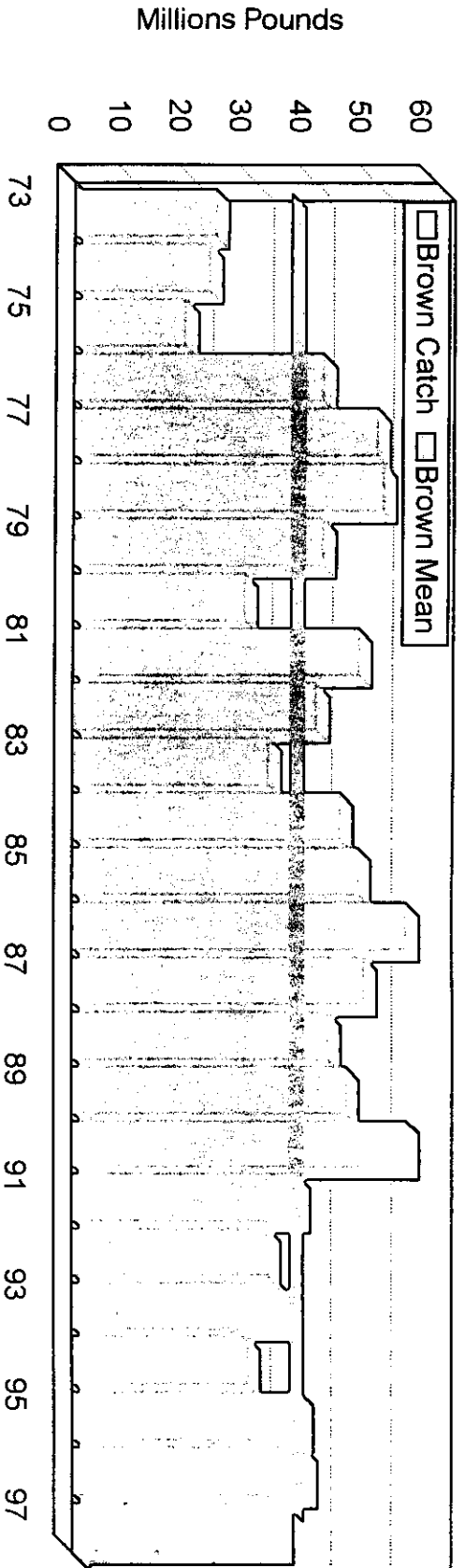


Louisiana Shrimp Landings (Live Weight/Heads-on)

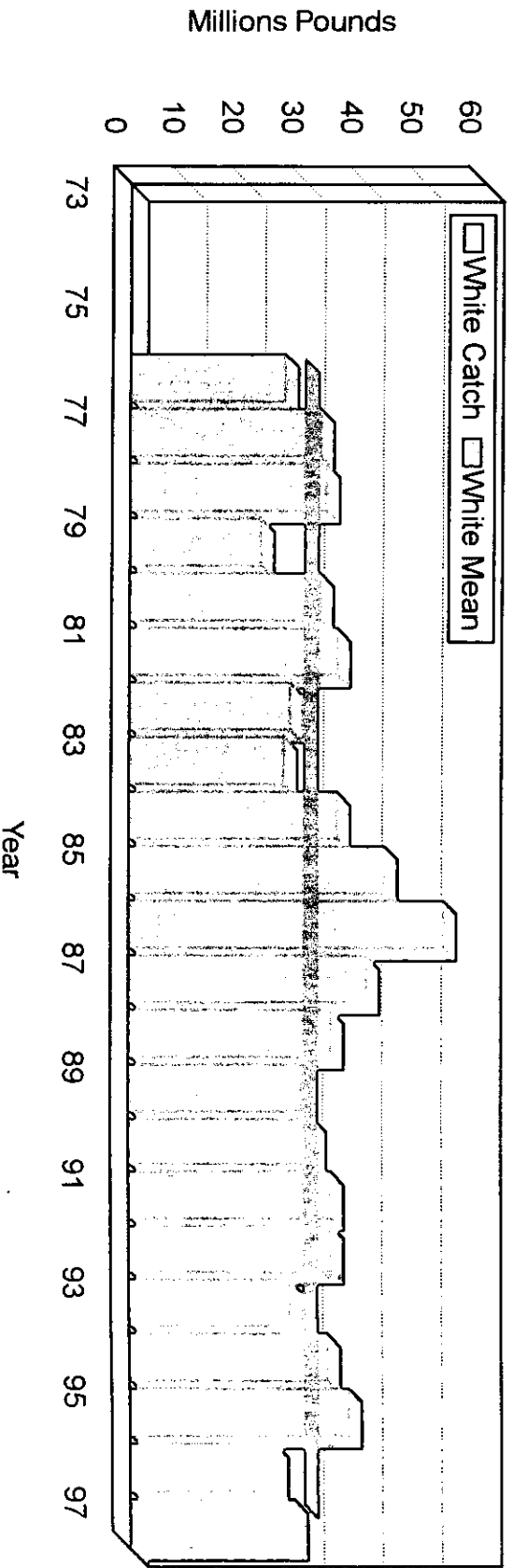


Source: NMFS

Louisiana Brown Shrimp Catch

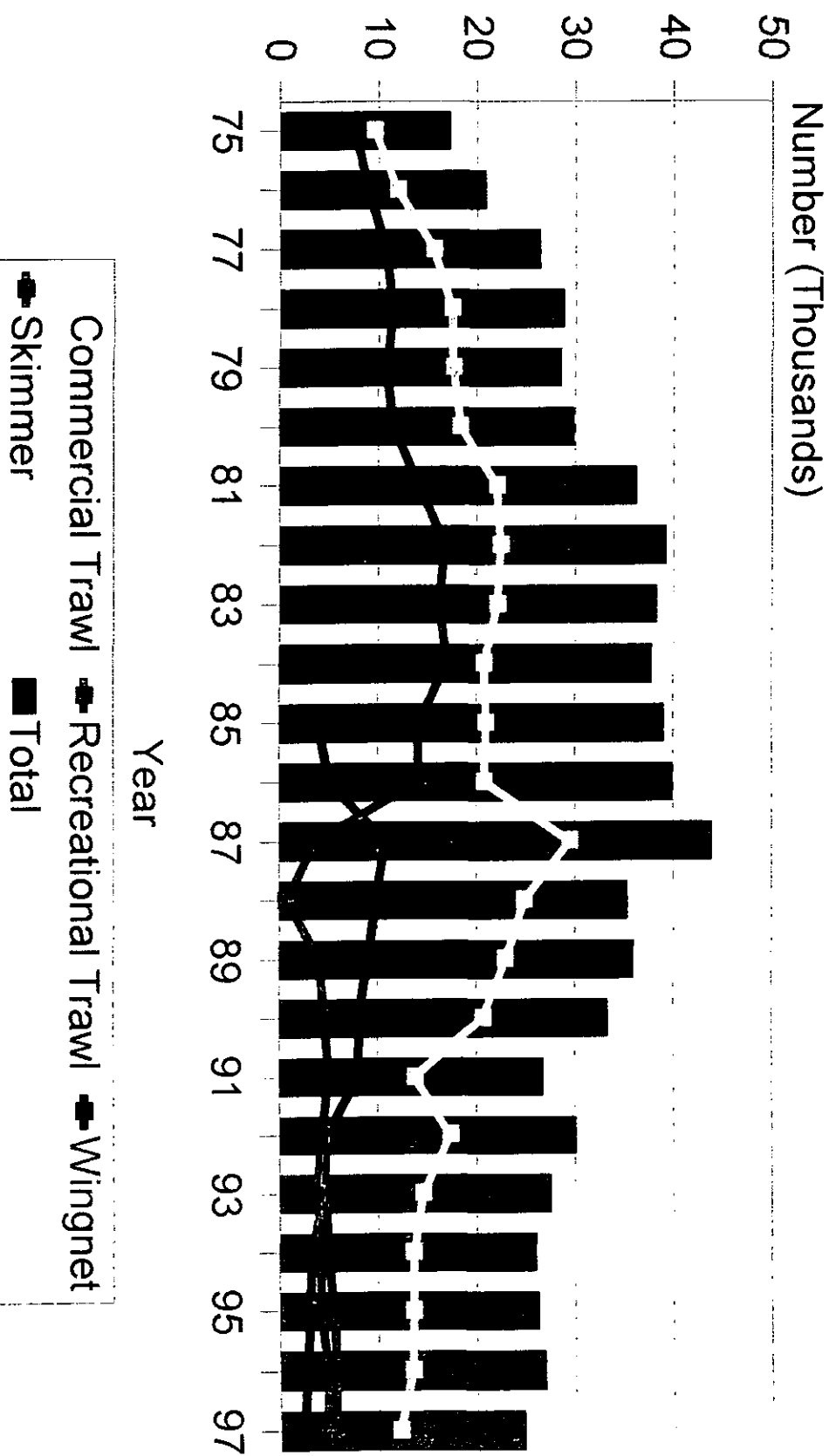


Louisiana White Shrimp Catch

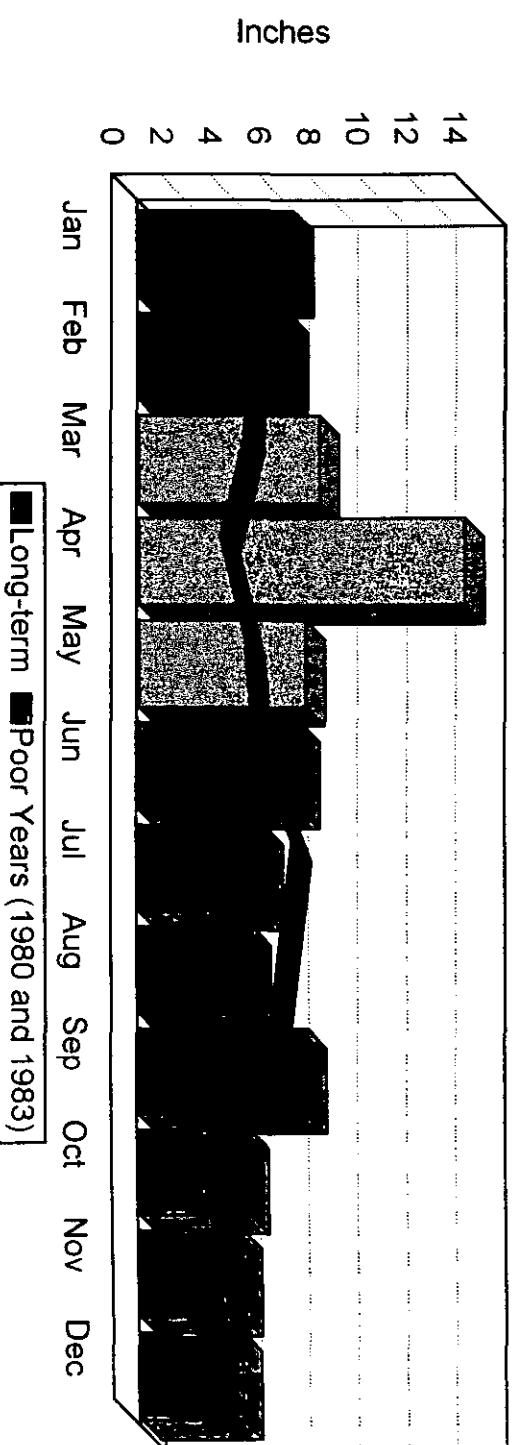
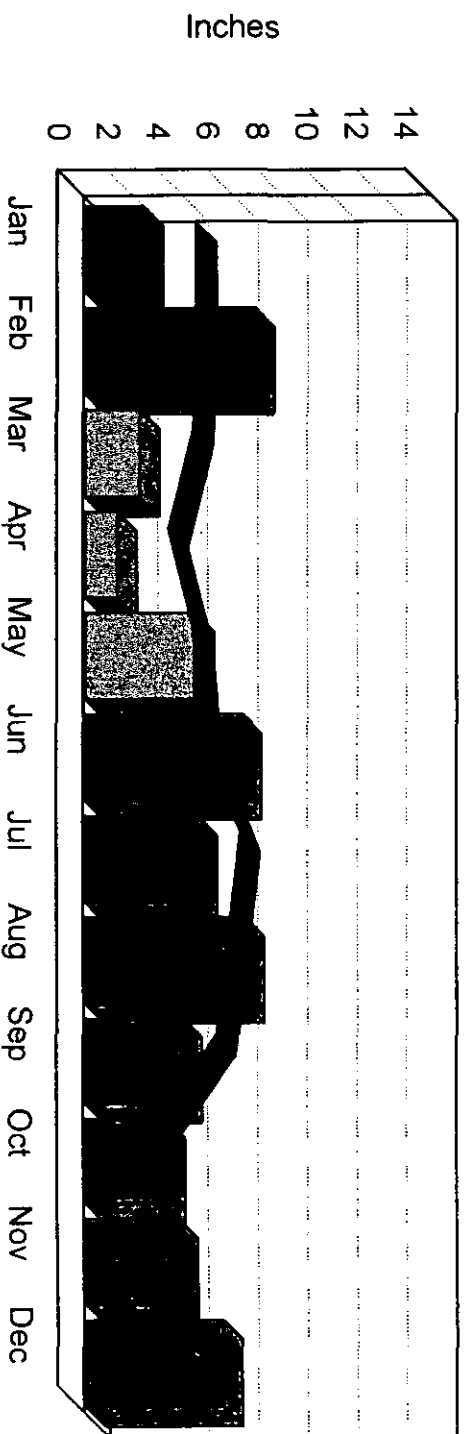


Source: NMFS (Heads Off Catch)

Louisiana Shrimp Gear License Sales by Year

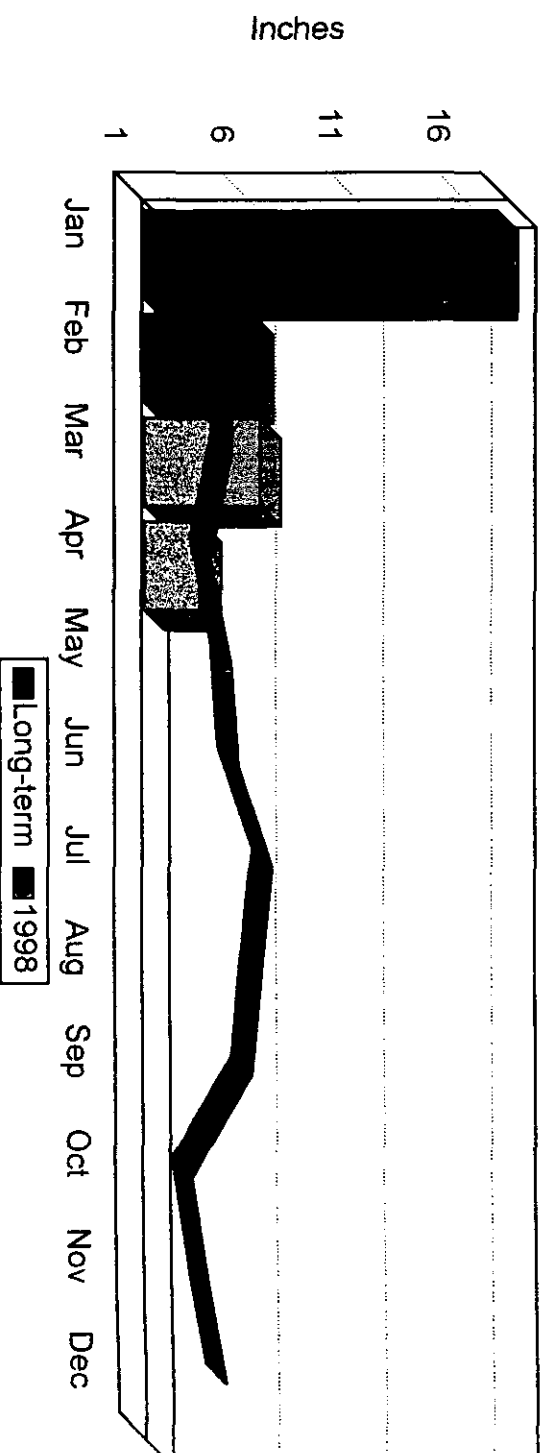
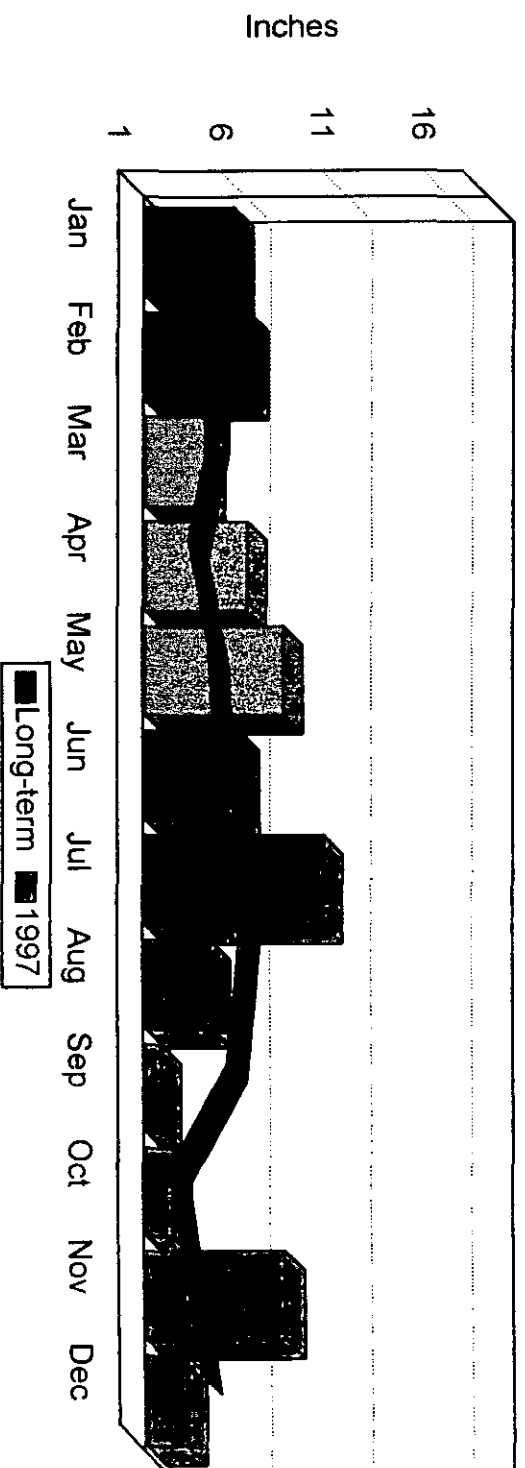


Southeast Louisiana Rainfall



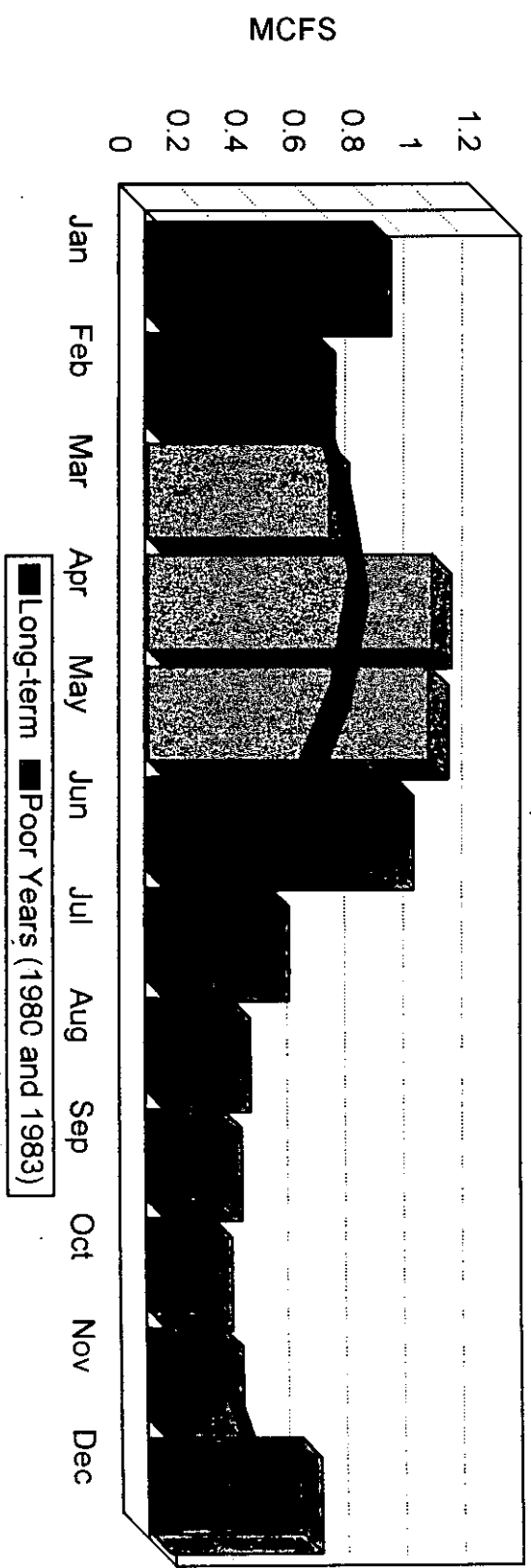
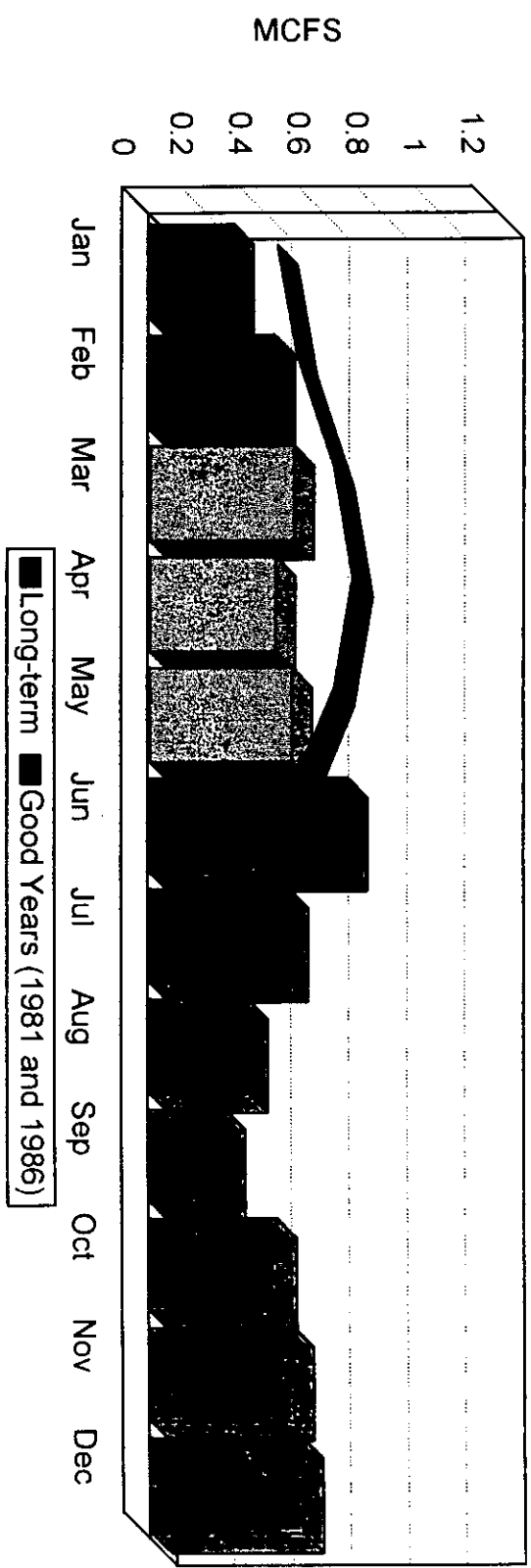
Source: Louisiana State Office of Climatology and NOAA

South-east Louisiana Rainfall



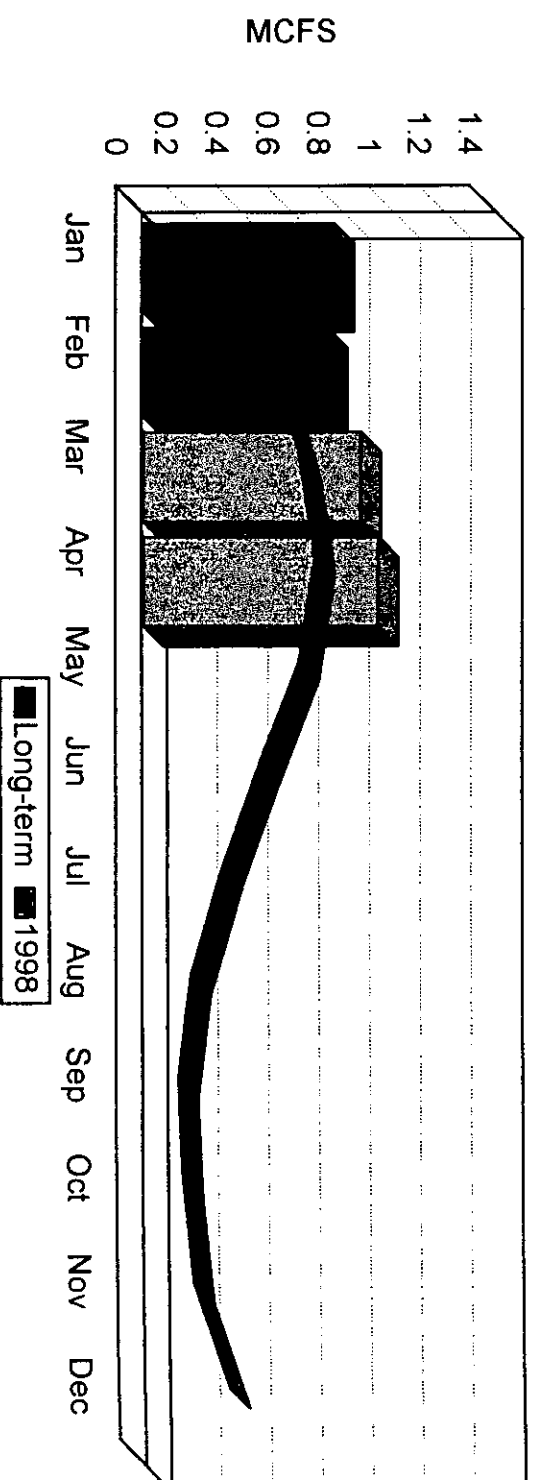
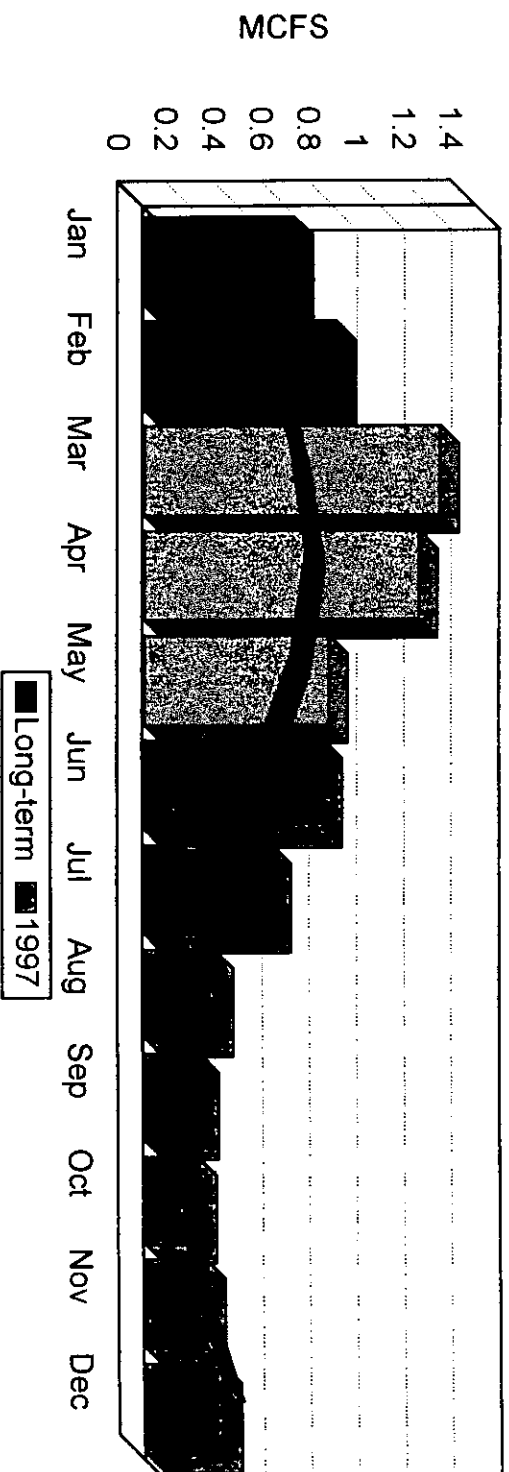
Source: Louisiana State Office of Climatology and NOAA

Mississippi River Discharge



Source: U. S. Corps of Engineers, New Orleans

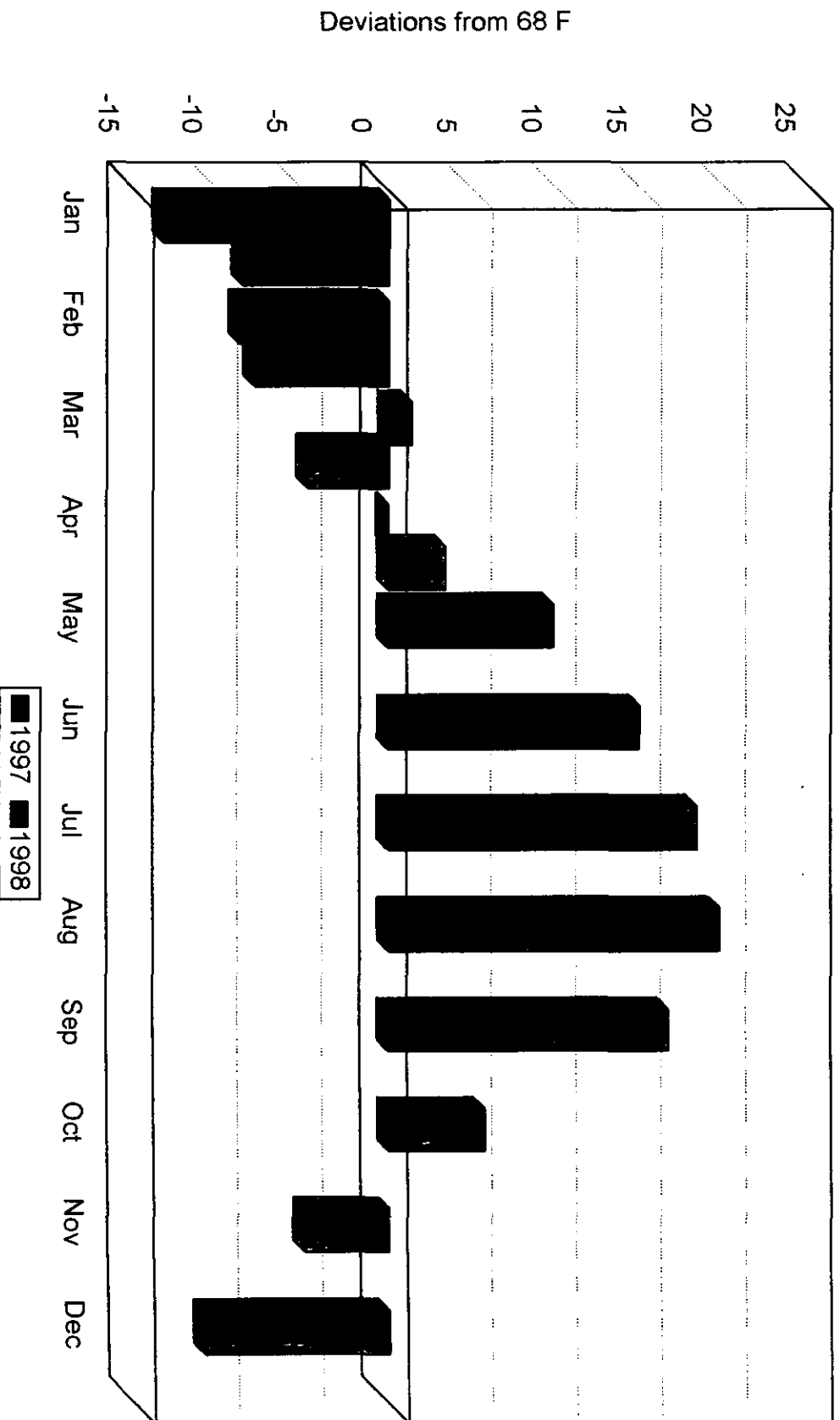
Mississippi River Discharge



Source: U. S. Corps of Engineers, New Orleans

South Barataria Bay Temperature

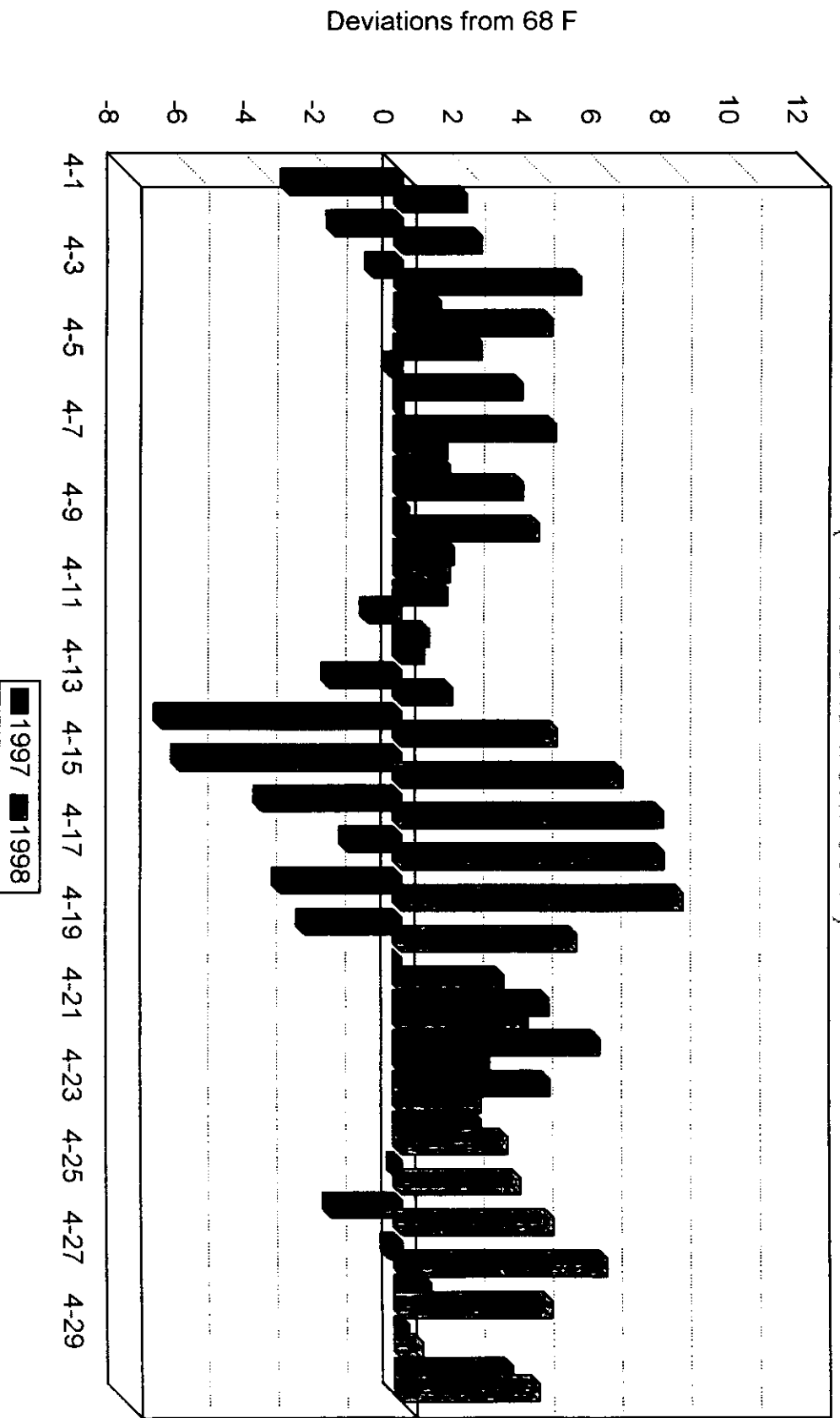
Deviations from 68 F



Source: LDWF and USGS

South Barataria Bay April Daily Water Temperature

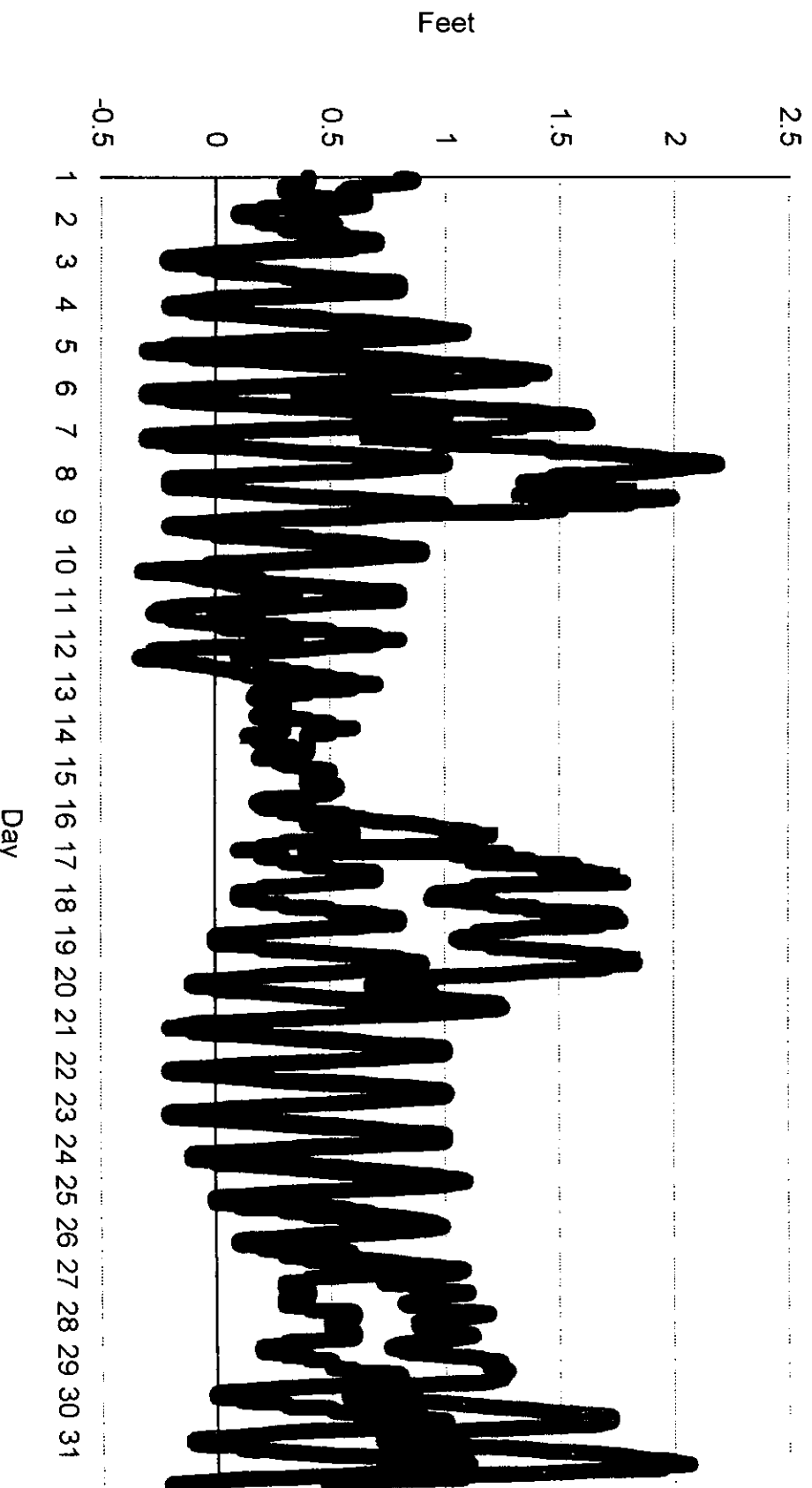
(Deviations from 68 F)



Source: LDWF and USGS

March 1998 Tidal Range

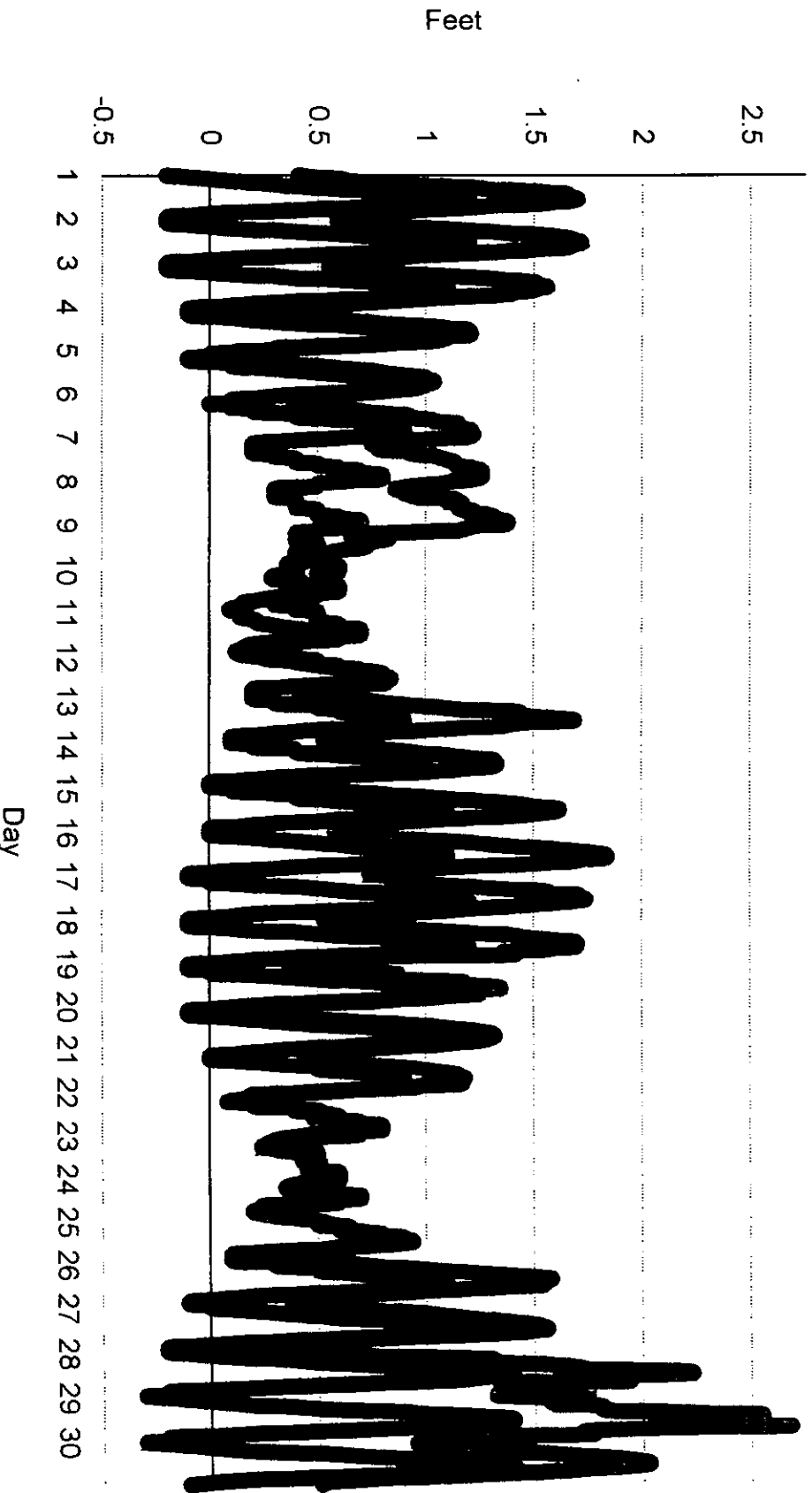
Barataria Pass, Louisiana



Source: LDWF/USGS and Nautical Software

April 1998 Tidal Range

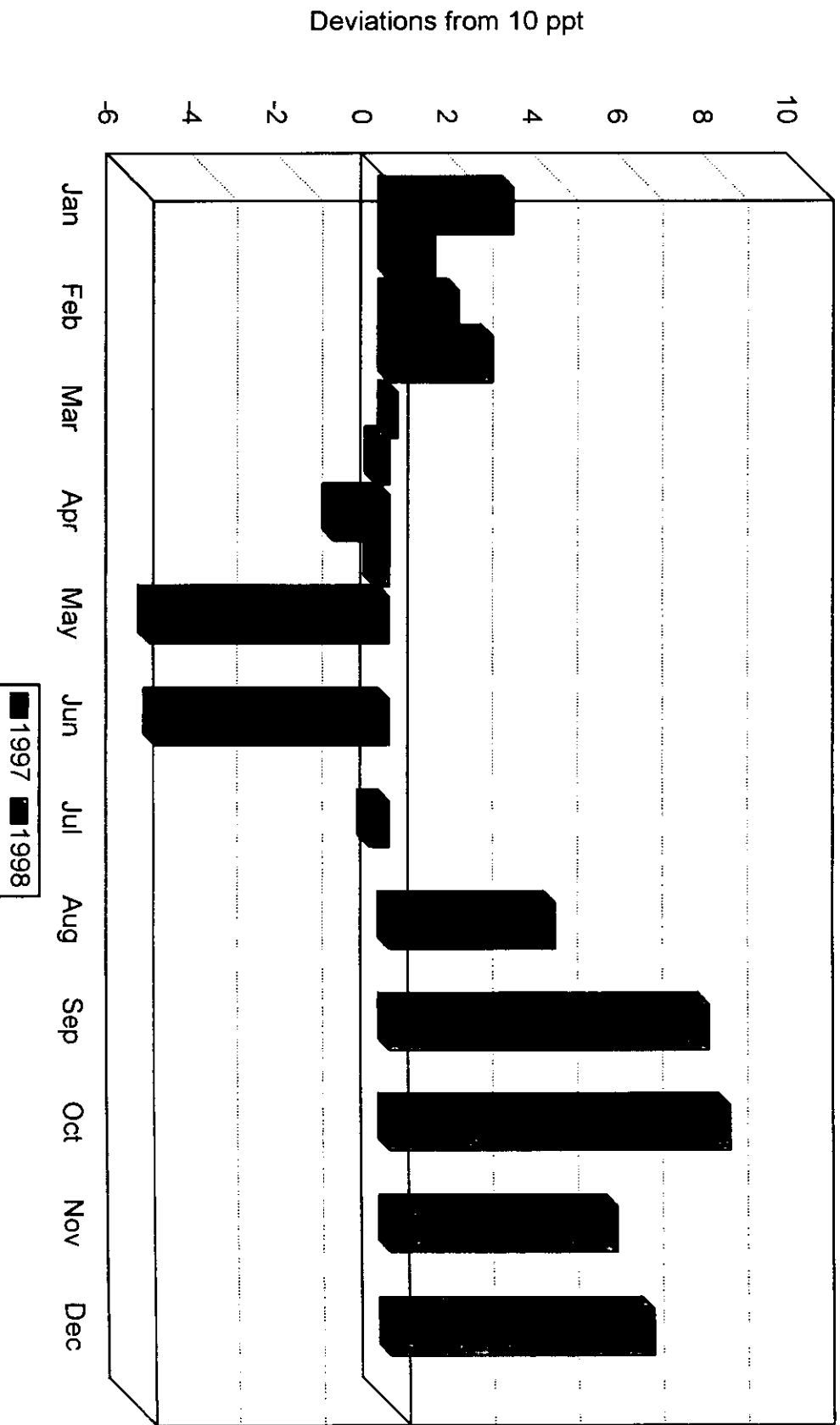
Barataria Pass, Louisiana



Source: LDWF/USGS and Nautical Software

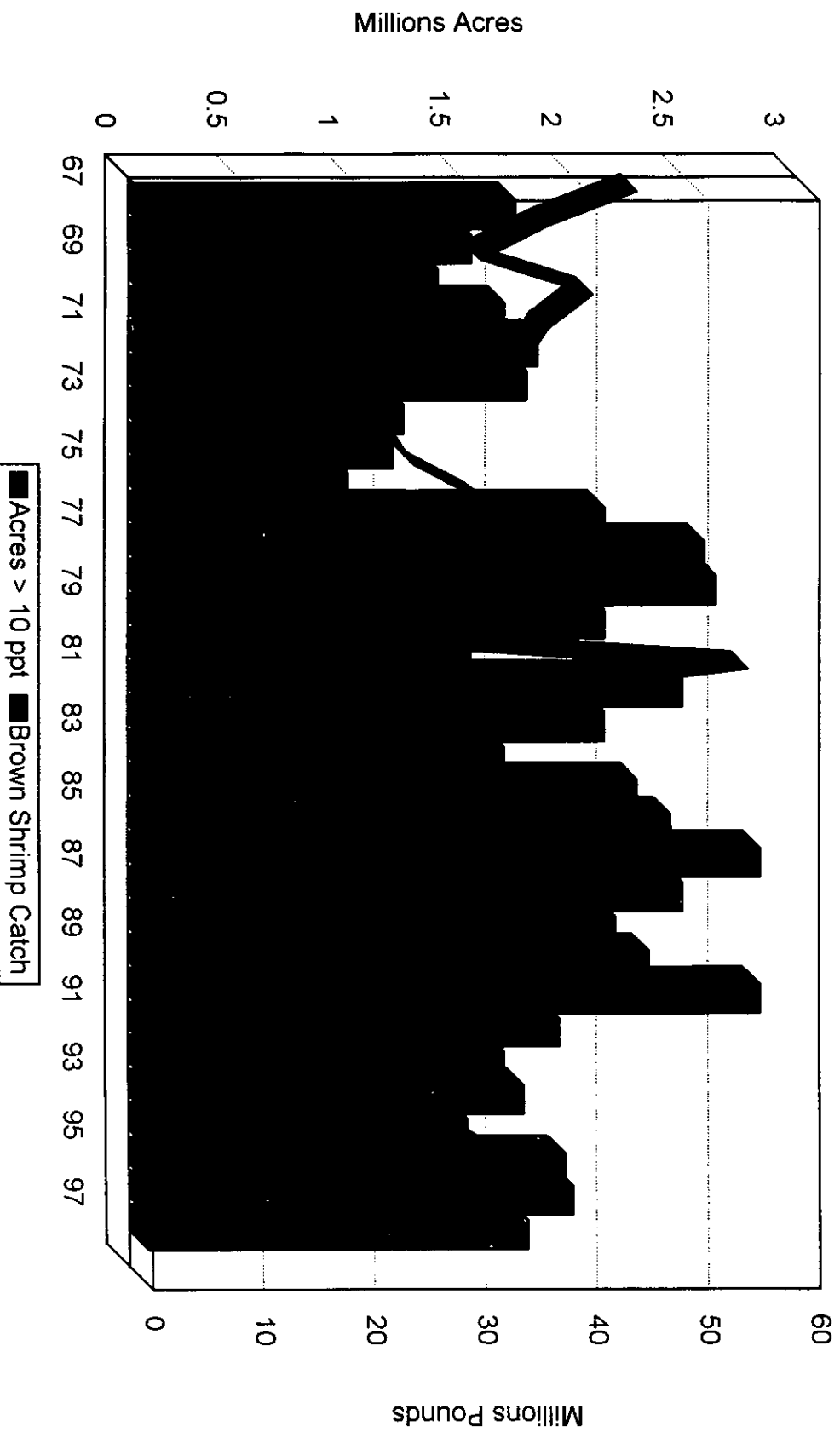
North Barataria Bay Salinity

Deviations from 10 ppt



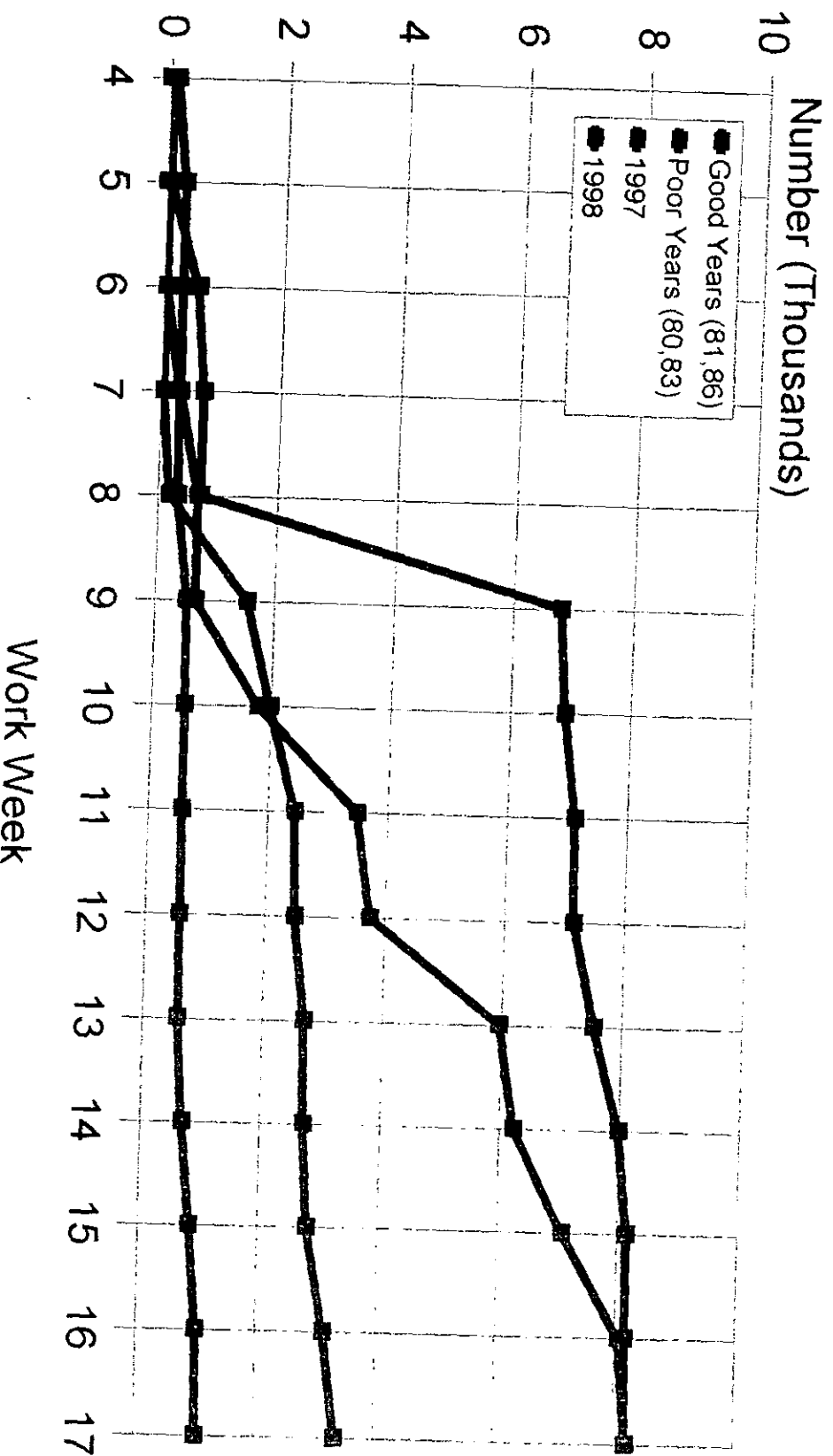
Source: LDWF and USGS

April Brown Shrimp Nursery Area



Source: LDWF and NMFS

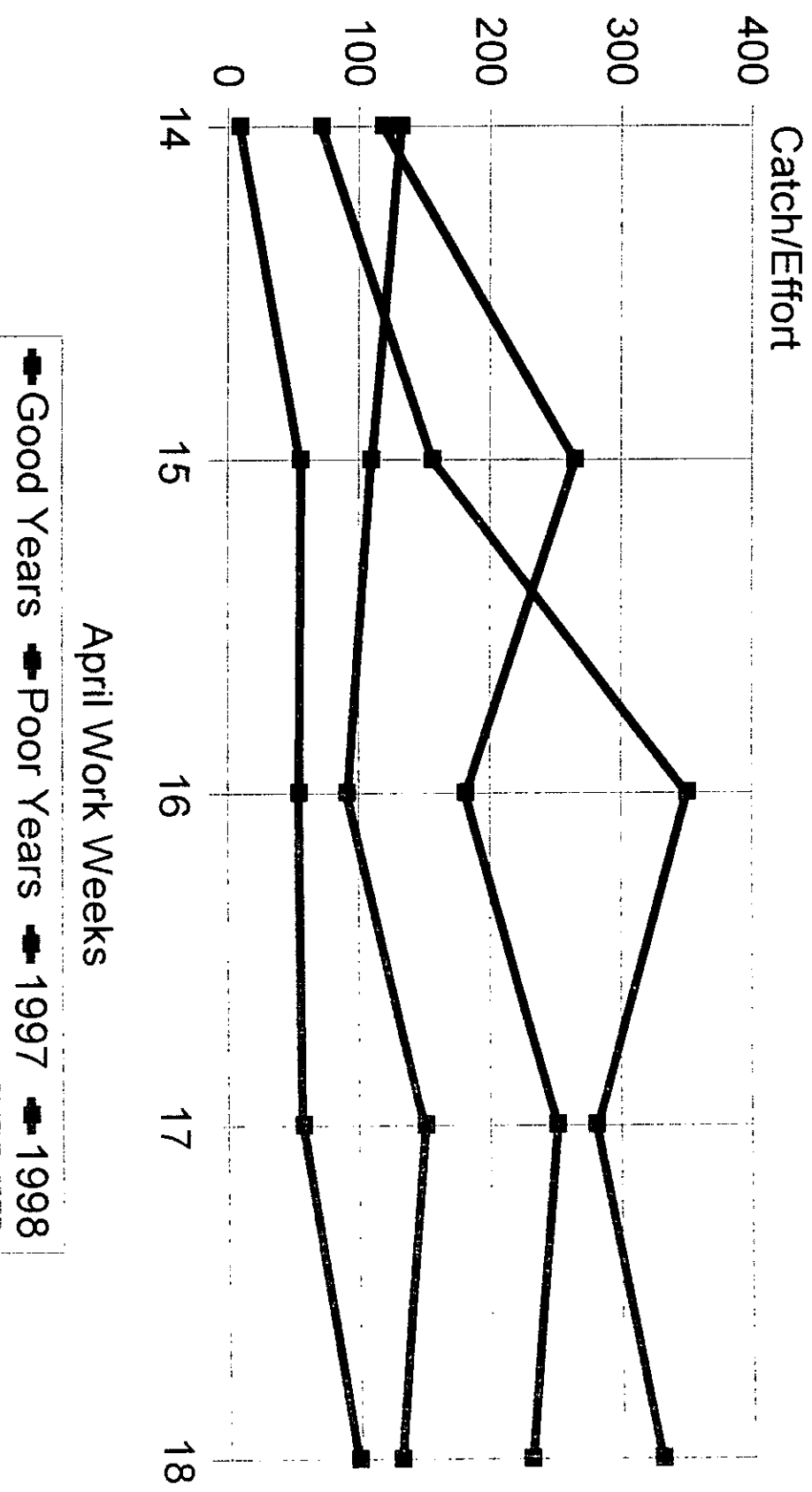
Cumulative Postlarval Catch Barataria Bay



Source: LDWF

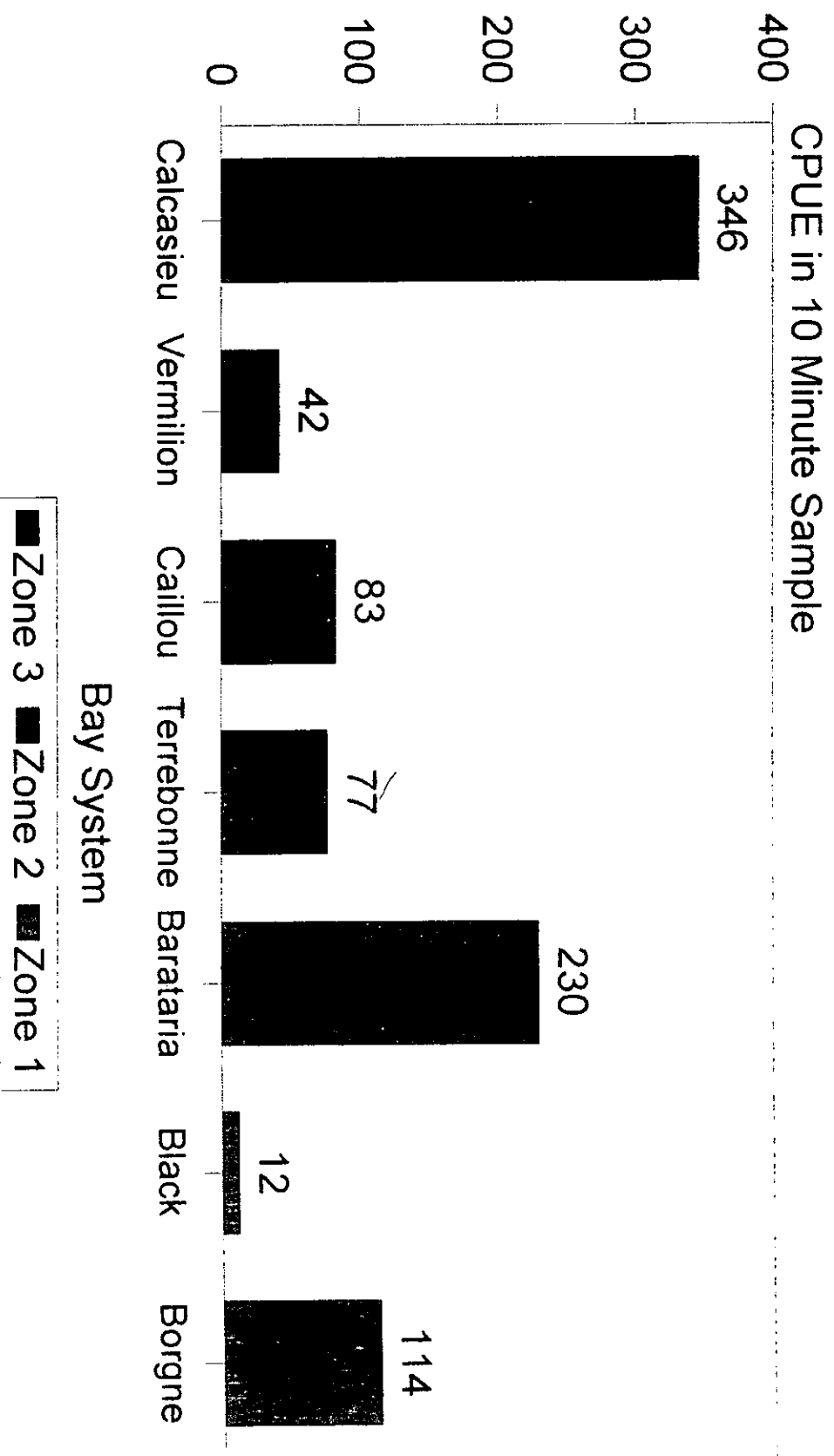
Brown Shrimp in 6' Trawls

Barataria Bay



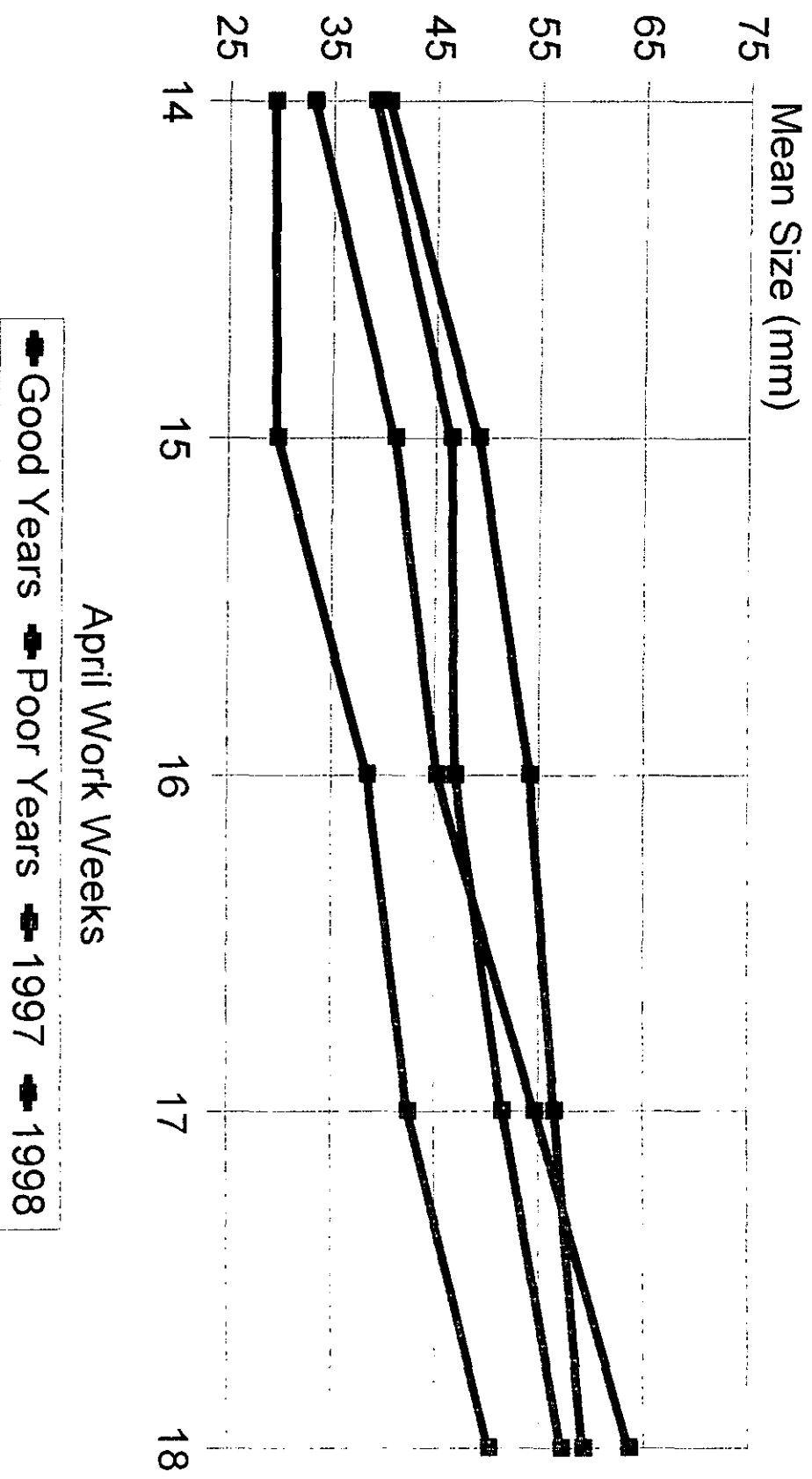
Brown Shrimp Catch per Effort

Week 18, 1998



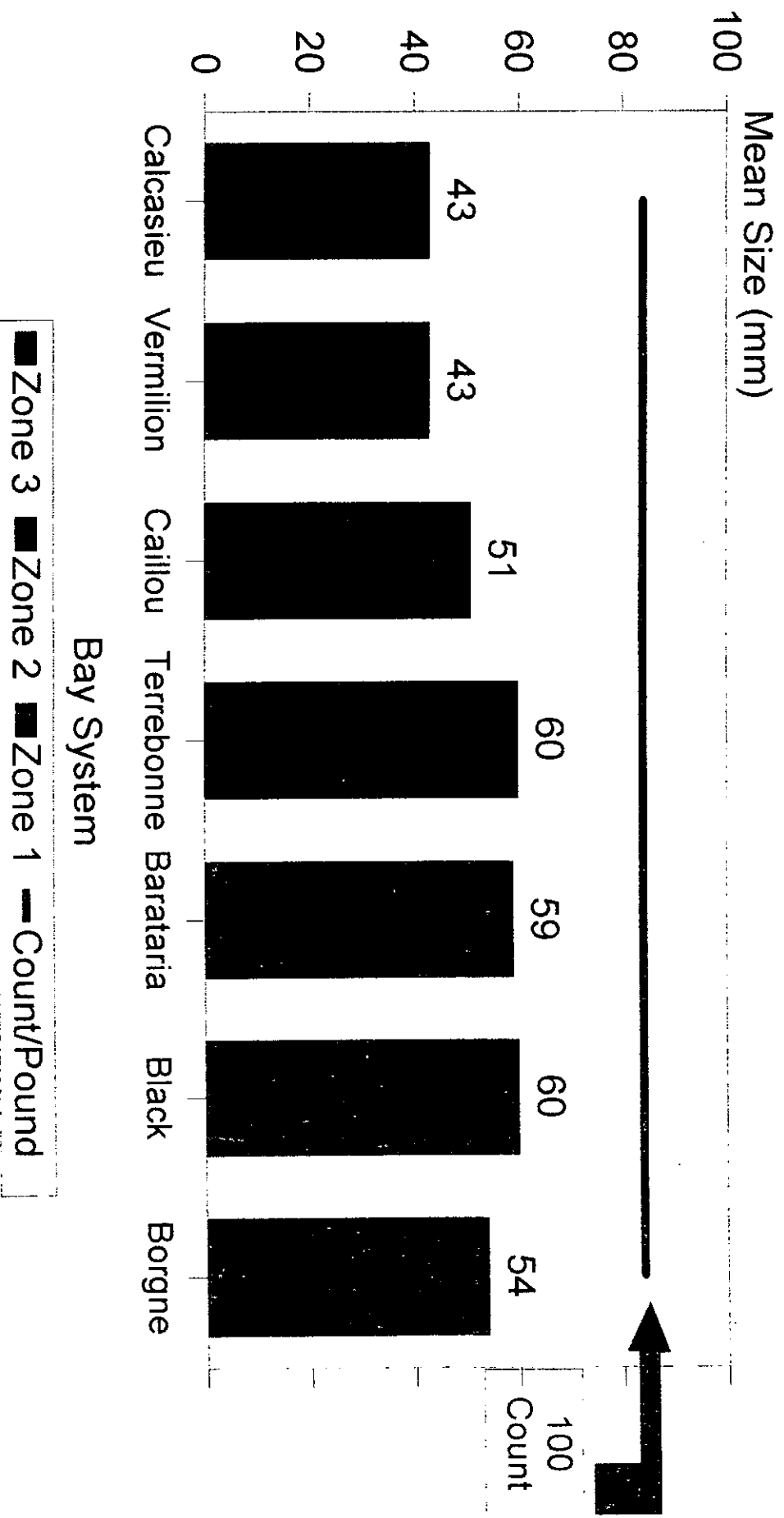
Brown Shrimp in 6' Trawls

Barataria Bay

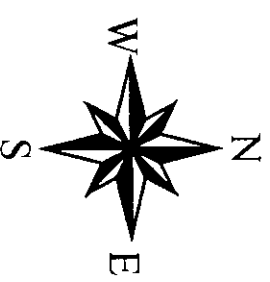
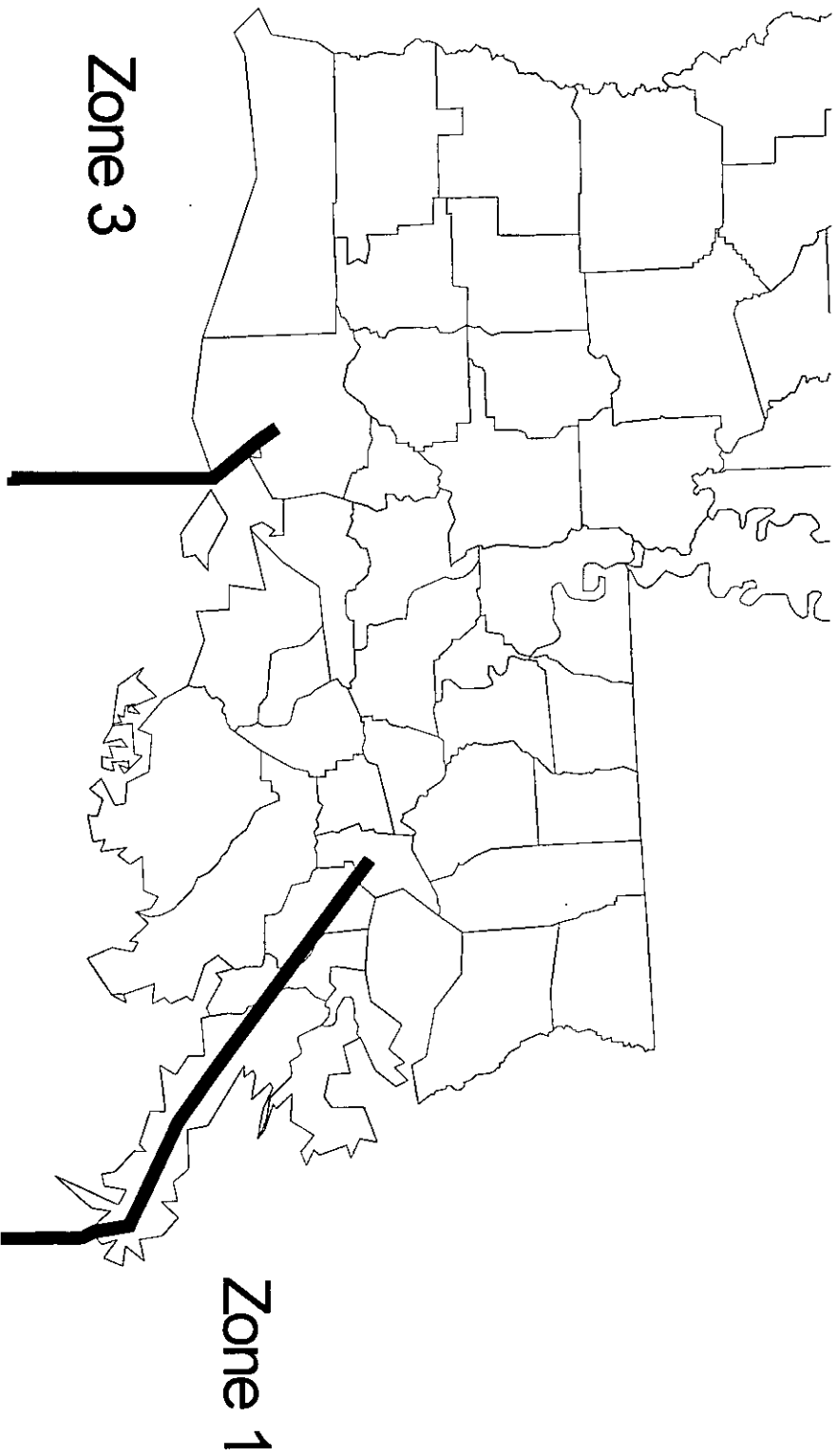


Brown Shrimp Size

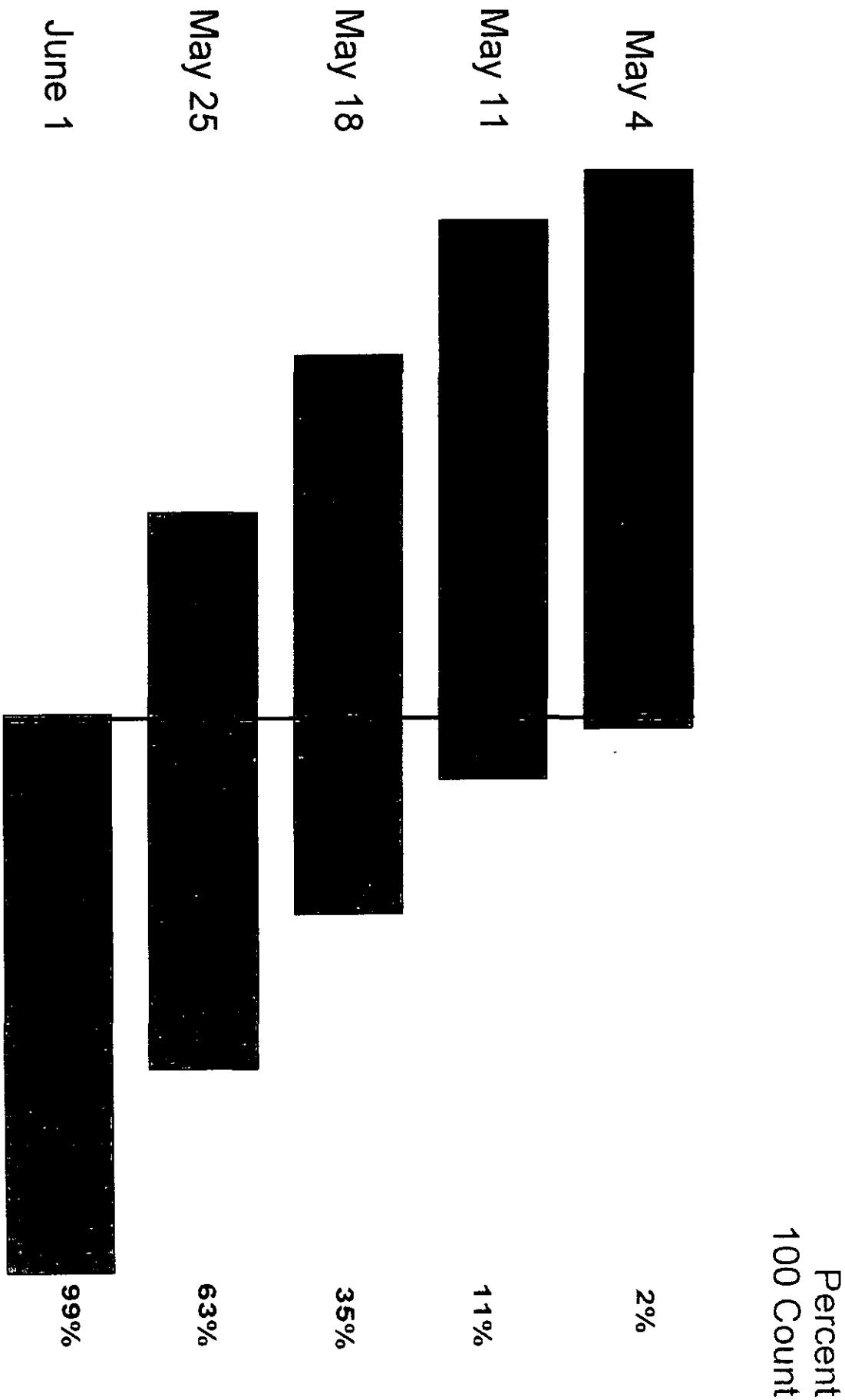
Week 18, 1997



Louisiana Shrimp Zones



ZONE 1 1998



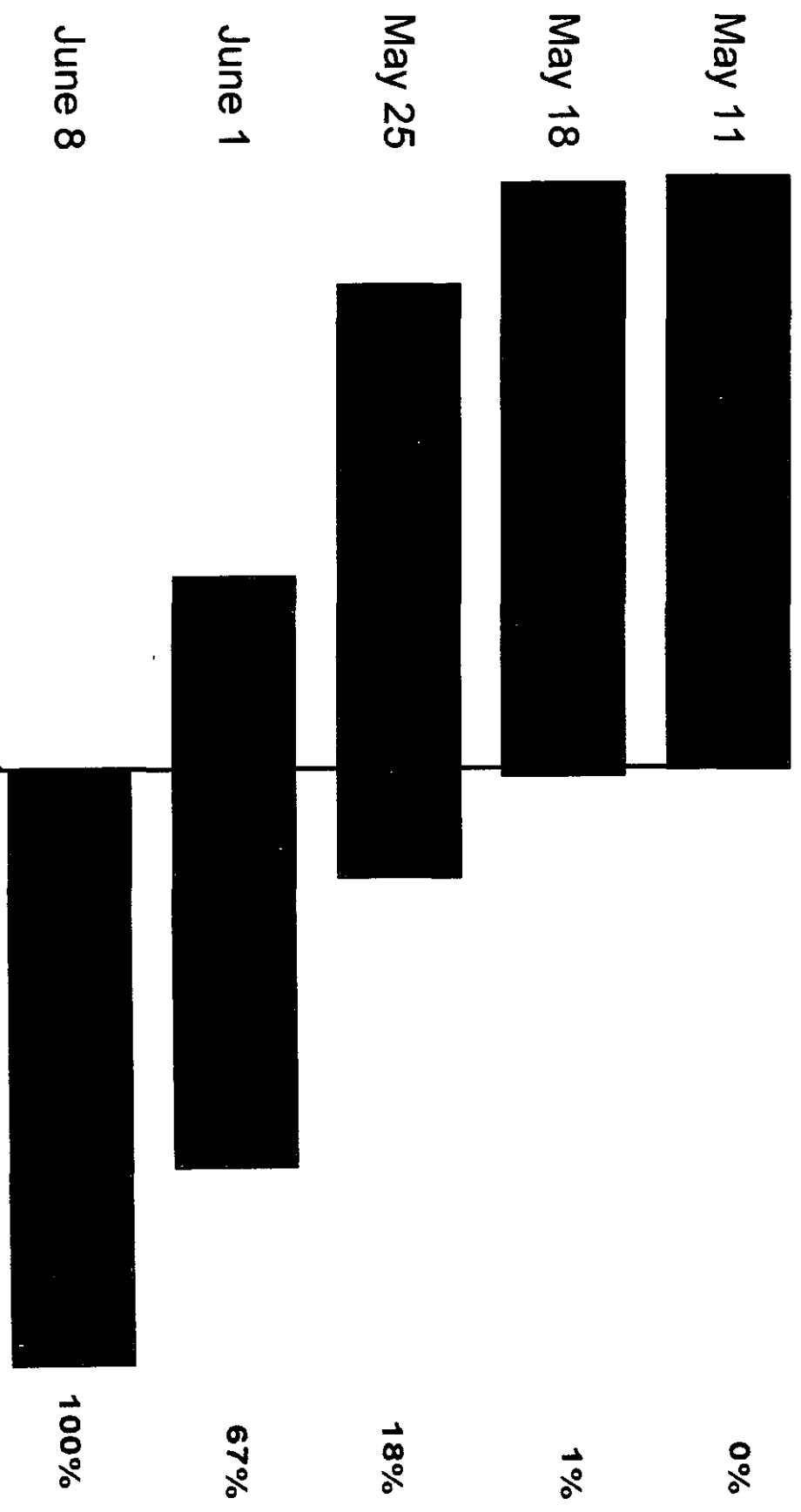
ZONE 2 1998

Percent
100 Count



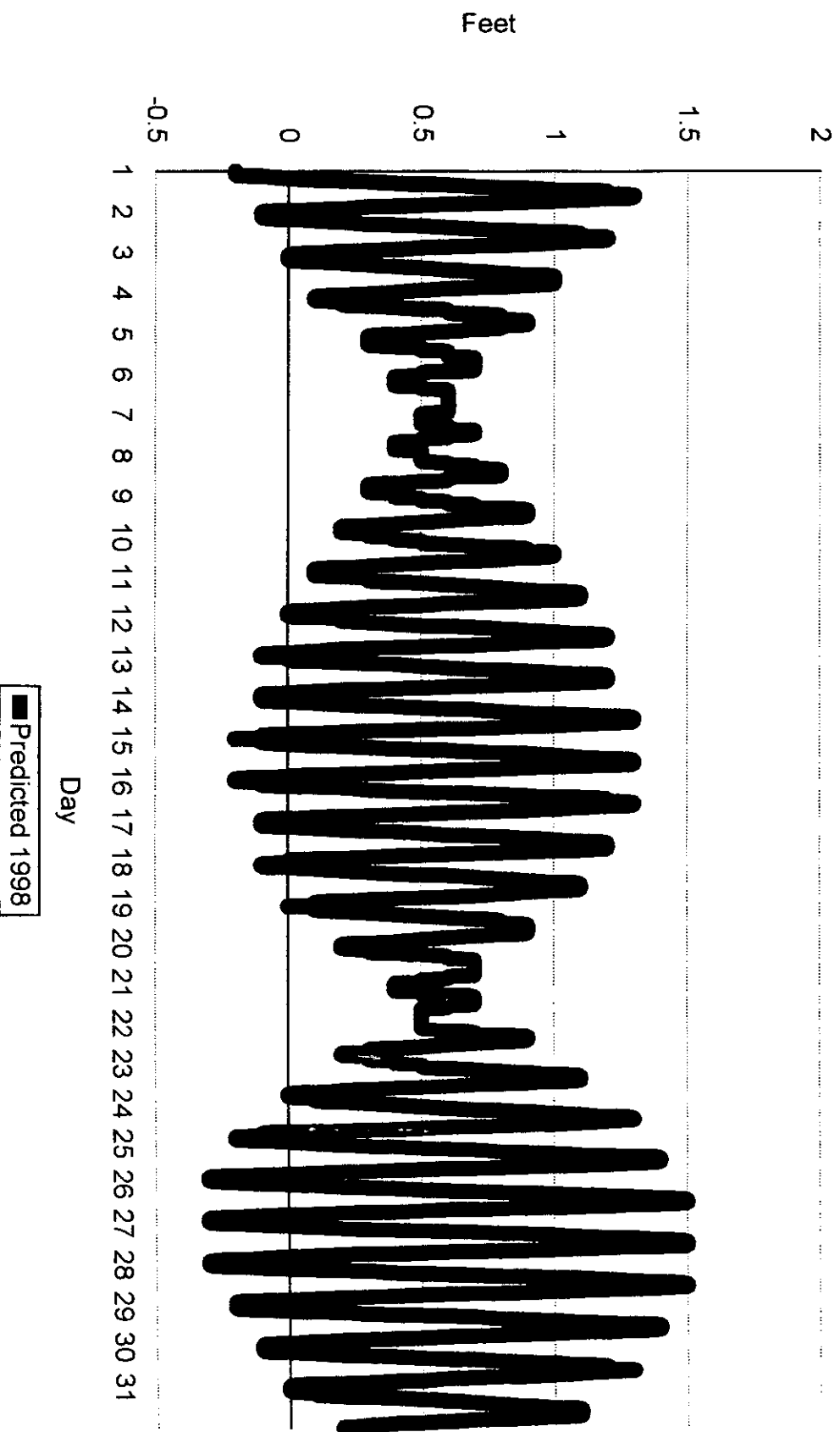
ZONE 3 1998

Percent
100 Count



May 1998 Tidal Range

Barataria Pass, Louisiana



Source: Nautical Software

RESOLUTION
1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season

WHEREAS, the traditional management criteria used by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in recommending the opening dates for the spring inshore shrimp season are based on the population of shrimp in each zone reaching such a size that 50% or more of the shrimp are 100 count per pound or larger, and

WHEREAS, current biological data project that at least 50% of the 1998 brown shrimp crop will meet the 100 count per pound management criteria in shrimp management Zone 1 by May 21, 1998, in Zone 2 by May 21, 1998 and in Zone 3 by May 30, 1998, and

WHEREAS, Act 871 of the 1997 Legislature mandates the opening of Zone 2, no later than the third Monday in May in 1998,

WHEREAS, on April 6, 1998 the Commission had closed that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby opens the spring inshore shrimp season in Zone 1 at 6 a.m. May 25, 1998, in Zone 2 and that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside shrimp line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou at 6 a.m. May 18, 1998 and in Zone 3 at 6 a.m. May 25, 1998.

*except for waters
of Breton &
Chandeleur Sound
I shall be 6 a.m.
May 18*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby grants to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the authority to close any portion of Louisiana's inshore waters to protect small white shrimp if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters, and R.S. 56:497 A(2) which provides that the season in Zone 2 shall open no later than the third Monday in May in 1998, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season to open as follows:

Zone 1, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the Mississippi State line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River, to open at 6 a.m. _____, 1998, and

Zone 2, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, as well as that portion of the State's Territorial Waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the Atchafalaya River Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel buoy line to Freshwater Bayou, all to open at 6 a.m. _____, 1998, and

Zone 3, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island westward to the Texas State Line, to open at 6 a.m. _____, 1998.

The Commission also hereby grants to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the authority to close any portion of the State's inshore waters to protect small white shrimp if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman

RESOLUTION

REEF FISH RULES - RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

- WHEREAS, The reef fish fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana are cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council), and
- WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and
- WHEREAS, on April 29, 1998, rules were established by NMFS reducing the recreational bag limit for red snapper harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana from 5 fish to 4 fish per person, and
- WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has received a request from the Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requesting that Louisiana provide regulations compatible with the 4-fish bag limit being implemented in Federal waters to enhance enforcement efforts, and
- WHEREAS, the rule established by NMFS is intended to restrain recreational harvest so that harvest does not exceed the recreational red snapper quota, leading to congressionally mandated closure of the recreational red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, and
- WHEREAS, in order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted, and
- WHEREAS, R.S.49:953(B) and R.S.49:967 allow the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and
- WHEREAS, R.S.56:326.3 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set bag limits for saltwater finfish,
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that an Emergency Rule to provide for a 4-fish recreational bag limit for red snapper in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Emergency Rule shall become effective at 12:01 a.m., May 11, 1998, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission also hereby promulgates a Notice of Intent to establish permanent rules through the Administrative Procedure Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this emergency rule, notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Thomas Gattle, Jr., Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby exercise the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 49:967(D), and pursuant to its authority under R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3 adopts the rule set forth below. This emergency rule is necessary to expedite the enforceability and effectiveness of Federal regulations on the recreational fishery for red snapper, which became effective April 29, 1998. It is therefore in the best interest of the State, and appropriate that these regulations be enacted expeditiously, thereby requiring emergency action. This Declaration of Emergency shall become effective at 12:01 a.m., May 11, 1998 and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until adoption of the final rule, whichever occurs first.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§335. Reef Fish-Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of snapper, grouper, sea basses, jewfish, and amberjack within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

Species

Recreational Bag Limits

1. Red Snapper

4 fish per person per day

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24: .

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (Title 76:335.A) modifying the recreational bag limit for red snapper, which is part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the Commission. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:325.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

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|----------------|--------------------------------|
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* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., August 4, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to adopt a rule imposing fees for non-resident charter trip fishing licenses.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 4. License and License Fees

§411. Non-resident Charter Trip Fishing License

A. In lieu of the basic recreational fishing license, non-residents may purchase from a licensed charter boat fishing guide, a non-resident charter trip fishing license for a fee of \$15. The license shall be valid only while fishing from a vessel upon which the licensed charter boat fishing guide is present and for the duration of the trip as defined, stated on the face of the license at the time of issuance.

B. The above fee hereby supersedes the fees established for the above license at R.S. 56:302.1.C(2)(c).

C. The effective date of the above fee shall be October 20, 1998.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(28).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and

the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mrs. Janis Landry, Fiscal Section, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., August 4, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

Don. 559-1527
Do 318 we need
a DOE?
We are printing/
shipping licenses as
we speak!
James

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

es Commission hereby adopts a rule imposing fees for
licenses.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 4. License and License Fees

§ 411. Nonresident Charter Trip Fishing Trip License

A. In lieu of the basic recreational fishing license, nonresidents may purchase from a licensed charter boat fishing guide, a nonresident charter trip fishing licenses for a fee of \$15.00. The license shall be valid only while fishing from a vessel upon which the licensed charter boat fishing guide is present and for the duration of the trip as defined stated on the face of the license at the time of issuance.

B. The above fee hereby supersedes the fees established for the above licenses at R.S. 56:302.1.C.(2)(b). C (2) (c) ?

C. The effective date of the above fee shall be ~~July 1, 1998~~.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56.6(28).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Tom Gattle

Fax #: 318-559-1524

Subject: Budget Committee Meeting

Date: April 20, 1998

Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

The attached minutes, prepared by Wynnette Kees, are from the Budget Committee Meeting of April 2, 1998. Let me know if you need further information.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

COMMISSION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF 4/02/98

Committee members present: Commissioners Tom Gattle, Norman McCall, and Bill Busbice.

Absent from the Committee: Commissioner Jerald Hanchey.

Others present: Commissioners Daniel Babin, and Tom Kelly, Undersecretary Ron Couvillion, Mrs. Wynnette Kees, and Confidential Assistant Craig Lamendola.

Undersecretary Couvillion and Mrs. Kees gave a status report on the department's 1998-99 budget request. A summary was handed out to supplement the verbal explanation.

Undersecretary Couvillion and Mrs. Kees submitted a summary of civil fine assessments. After some discussion, the committee identified three issues relative to civil fines: 1) the law needs to be amended for stiffer penalties for non-payment of fines; 2) the values of civil restitution should be reevaluated; and 3) the department should write off the older, uncollectible accounts.

Confidential Assistant Lamendola discussed the status of legislation which would allow the department to automate its sports license issuance system. A draft fiscal note was given to the committee, and the \$1.6 million supplement to the sheriffs was discussed.

The committee discussed the pricing and effectiveness of charter boat walk-on, nonresident licenses. In accordance with authority granted to the Commission to adjust nonresident licenses, a motion was made by Commissioner Busbice, seconded by Commissioner McCall to pursue increasing the charter boat trip ticket licenses from \$2.50 to \$15.00. Rule language should be drafted for presentation at the next Commission Meeting.

Saltwater Charter Guide Licenses

| | Louisiana | Florida | Texas | Mississippi | Alabama |
|------------------|--|---|-----------------|-------------|---|
| Guide | 6 persons \$250 over 6 - \$500 NR 6 person \$1,000 NR over 6 - \$2000 | 4 person - \$200 10 person - \$400 11+persons - \$800 | \$75.00 | \$200 | 6 person - \$201 7-25 persons - \$301 25+ persons - \$501 |
| Customers | \$2.50 | no license | fishing license | no license | no license |

NON-RESIDENT FEE COMPARISON

May 5, 1998 - update to fishing fees

| STATE | NR Fish Seaso | NR Salt Season | NR Fish Trip | NR Salt Trip |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| ALABAMA | Reciprocate Louisiana Fees | | | |
| ARKANSAS | \$30.00 | | 3-day \$10.00 7-day \$15.00 14-day \$20.00 | |
| FLORIDA | \$31.50 | \$30.00 | 7-day \$16.50 | 7-day \$15.00 |
| MISSISSIPPI | \$28.00 | \$28.00 (\$56.00 FOR LA residents") | 3-day \$8.00 | 3-day \$8.00 (\$16.00 for LA residents) |
| TEXAS | \$30.00 | \$7.00 | 5-day \$20.00 | \$7.00 stamp |
| LOUISIANA | \$31.00 | \$36.00 | 3day \$20.00 | 3day \$20.00 +\$3.00 stamp |
| GEORGIA | \$24.00 | | 1 day \$3.50 7 day \$7.00 | |

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

1998 STRATEGIC PLAN DRAFT

(Revised 5/01/98)

MISSION

To manage, conserve, and promote wise utilization of Louisiana's renewable fish and wildlife resources and their supporting habitats through replenishment, protection, enhancement, research, development, and education; to provide opportunities for knowledge of and for the use and enjoyment of the resources placed under the stewardship of the Department.

VISION

Louisiana will be the premier state for wildlife and fisheries resource management by providing maximum and sustainable opportunities for all users of the resources, both consumptive and non-consumptive. There will be recognition of and confidence in the management abilities of the Department.

PHILOSOPHY

The Department's mission will be accomplished in a fair and equitable fashion using science-based information, open communication, and collaboration. The policies and actions of the Department shall be developed and implemented so as to encourage teamwork among its employees and to promote the public's trust and respect.

GOALS

1. Establish stable funding for the Department so that we are able to sufficiently and effectively meet our mission and mandates.
2. Create an environment within the Department that is conducive to employee productivity through
 - a. Training
 - b. Paperwork reduction
 - c. Provision of adequate resources and equipment
 - d. Establishing parity with other agencies relative to pay levels
3. Optimize long and short-term recreational and commercial use opportunities by
 - a. Establishing technically sound research, management, development and monitoring programs
 - b. Enhancing and maintain compliance with fish and wildlife laws
 - c. Informing and educating the public about resource issues

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS SUMMARY/OUTLINE FROM “MANAGEWARE”

I. BOTTOM LINE

- A. Strategic planning asks and answers 4 questions
 - 1. Where are we now?
 - 2. Where do we want to be?
 - 3. How do we get there?
 - 4. How do we measure our progress?
- B. The people who will bear the responsibility for accomplishing a part of the plan should participate in the development of that part of the plan.
- C. Each budgeted program needs a strategic plan.
- D. Must keep documentation for each of the plan components as audit trail.

II. BENEFITS

- A. Better decisions
- B. Energizes
- C. Compliance with performance audit and sunset review requirements
- D. Compliance with Act 1465
- E. Quality services to customers
- F. Aids resource-allocations decisions

III. PARTICIPANTS (internal)

- A. Secretary
- B. Commission members
- C. Executive staff (appointed unclassified's, Division administrators and assistants)
- D. Program managers and supervisors, field employees
- E. Budget managers
- F. Facility managers
- G. Human resource managers
- H. Information system managers
- I. Planning coordinator
- J. Public information officer
- K. Facilitator

IV. COMPONENTS OF PROCESS

A. Internal/External Assessment

1. Situation inventory - assessment of organization's position, performance, problems, potential
2. Environmental scan - analysis of key external elements or forces that affect the environment in which the organization functions
3. Review of dept's purpose and responsibilities according to statutes
4. Identification of customers, clients, other stakeholders
5. User surveys
6. Bench marking

B. Department vision, mission, philosophy, and goals

C. Program missions and goals and objectives

D. Program strategies and action plans

E. Program performance indicators

F. Appendix

1. Strategy Analysis Checklist
2. Identification of principal persons who will benefit from accomplishment of each objective
3. Identification of statutory requirement or authorization for each goal
4. Performance Indicator Matrix
5. Indicator Documentation Sheet

INTERNAL FACTORS

ELEMENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION'S POSITION, PERFORMANCE, PROBLEMS, AND POTENTIAL WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO ITS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Re Employees:

- Tenure, education, training, and experience of managers
- Attitude, morale
- Promotional opportunities
- Methods for rewards/discipline
- Length of service of top administrators
- Continuing education/training
- Responsiveness to change
- Trust in planning process
- Involvement in decision-making processes
- Parity in pay with other agencies

Re Management:

- Continuity of direction
- Skills of supervisors and managers
- Support for planning process
- Turnover every 4 years
- Ability to inspire loyalty and trust

Organization/Other: Continuity of core programs
Continuity of direction
Intra departmental cooperation, communication
Enabling legislation
Paperwork
Condition of capital assets/physical plan
Functional and organizational structure

EXTERNAL FACTORS

ELEMENTS, OR FORCES WHICH INFLUENCE THE ORGANIZATION'S ENVIRONMENT THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Re finances: | Financial status of state government Economy of state |
| Re constituents: | Level of knowledge Trust, support Demographics Attitude Compatibility (conflicting wants/needs) Special interest groups Number of persons/groups impacted |
| Re Administration: | DOA policies/requirements/budget process (rule/govern by "exception") |
| Re other: | Weather conditions Technology Educated/experienced applicant pool Balanced, productive ecosystem |
| Re Politics: | Climate Support Cooperation among agencies/partnerships Laws |

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

APRIL 1998

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT-APRIL 1998

REGION I

TOTAL CASES-116

WMA&REFUGES-26

21-Boating

22-Angling W/O Resident License

3-Angling W/O Non-Resident License

22-Fishing W/O Resident Pole License

2-Failure To Have Commercial License In Possession

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

3-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

3-Failure To Maintain Records

5-Sell Game Fish

1-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun

1-Take Deer Closed Season

1-Take Deer From A Public Road

1-Hunt Turkey W/O Resident Big Game License

1-Hunt Turkey Over Baited Area

1-Taking Of Alligator Closed Season

1-Illegal Possession Of Alligator

2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. Of Commission (Closed Area)

22-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

2-Discharge Firearm From Public Road

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REGION 1 CONT'D

CONFISCATIONS:

1-deer, 2-270 cal. rifles, 1-1998 Chevrolet pick-up, 1-live alligator, 1-turkey decoy,
1-shotgun, 1-turkey call.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION I:

21-Boating

47-Sport Fishing

15-Commercial Fishing

5-Hunting

2-Alligator

4-Miscellaneous

22-Rules And Regs. On WMA

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA & REFUGES:

25-Bodcau

1-Jackson-Bienville

Page (3)

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES-99

WMA&REFUGES-17

25-Boating

1-Blocking Passage of Fish

2-Use Lead Nets In Other Than Overflow Regions

2-Take Game Fish Illegally

2-Sell Game Fish

14-Angling W/O A License

2-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

14-Fish W/O A Resident Pole License

1-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

3-Buying Deer Meat

1-Possession of Wild Quadrupeds Without License

3-Possession Of Marijuana

2-Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia

7-Littering

13-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

CONFISCATIONS:

2 Bags of Marijuana, 1 Pipe, 1 Paper, 1 Hoop Net W/Leads, 1 Black Bass

1 Johnson Outboard, 1 Aluminum Boat, 1 Boat Trailer

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2:

25-Boating

7-Littering

Page (4)

REGION 2 CONT'D

7-Commercial Fishing

13-Rules And Regs. On WMA

31-Sport Fishing

5-Other

4-Hunting

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA AND REFUGES:

16-Russell Sage

1-Ouachita

Page (5)

REGION 3

TOTAL CASES-157

WMA&REFUGES-16

33-Boating

64-Angle W/O License In Possession

8-Fish W/O Resident Pole License

5-Angle W/O Non-Resident Fishing License

1-Use Recreational Gear W/O Gear License

16-Possess Undersize Black Bass

6-Sell Game Fish

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

1-Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

1-Buy Commercial Fish From Unlicensed Commercial Fisherman

1-Failure To Maintain Records

1-Hunt Turkey W/O Turkey Stamp

1-Hunt Turkeys In Closed Area

2-Hunt W/Unplugged Gun

2-Selling Deer Meat

1-Selling Squirrel

6-Fail To Abide By R&R On WMA

1-Possess Live Non-Game Quadrupeds W/O License

1-Trapping In Closed Season

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REGION 3 CONT'D

2-Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

26 black bass, 240 lbs. crappie, 199 lbs. catfish, 1 deer 1 set deer ribs, 1 squirrel, 4 raccoons, 5-\$20.00 bills, 1 steel trap.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3:

33-Boating

2-Littering

94-Sport Fishing

6-Rules And Regs. On WMA

13-Commercial Fishing

2-Trapping

7-Hunting

TOTAL CASES WMA AND REFUGES:

4-Alexander State Forest

2-Camp Beauregard

5-Spring Bayou

4-Boise Vernon

1-Fort Polk

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REGION 4

TOTAL CASES-81

WMA&REFUGES-24

27-Boating

19-Angling W/O A License

9-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

16-Fish W/O Resident Pole License

3-Take Or Possess Game Fish Illegally

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

1- Hunt Turkey Closed Area

3-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

1-Flight From An Officer

CONFISCATIONS:

36 crappie, 8 hoop nets

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4:

27-Boating 1-Other

47-Sport Fishing

2-Commercial Fishing

1-Hunting

3-Rules And Regs. On WMA

TOTAL CASES MADE ON WMA AND REFUGES:

5-Boeuf

16-Dewey Wills

3-Three Rivers

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REGION 5

TOTAL CASES-142

WMA&REFUGES-46

54-Boating

17-Angling W/O A License

3-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

1-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

1-Failure To Have Commercial License In Possession

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

3-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Vessel License

3-Sell Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail License

1-Sell Or Buy Fish W/O Retail Seafood License

5-Fail To Maintain Records

2-Transport W/O Required License

1-Illegal Shipping of Commercial Fish

1-Trawling State Waters Closed Season

1-Use Trawl Exceeding Size Requirements

3-Frog Closed Season

24-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

3-Criminal Trespass On State Property

5-Littering

3-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

2-Criminal Trespass On Crawfish Ponds

Page (9)

REGION 5 CONT'D.

2-Criminal Mischief

1-Operate ATV Vehicle On Public Roads

2-Violation of Sanitary Code - Chapter 9 (Failure To Refrigerate Properly)

3-Violation of Sanitary Code - Chapter 9 (Vessel Regulations)

CONFISCATIONS:

50 lbs. catfish, 250 lbs. crabs, 845 lbs. shrimp, 4 trawls, 130 lbs. frog legs, 62 sacks oysters.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 54-Boating | 5-Littering | 2-Public Assistance |
| 19-Commercial Fishing | 3-Reptile/Amphibian | |
| 21-Recreational Fishing | 16-Other | |
| 24-Rules And Regs. On WMA | | |

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA AND REFUGES:

27-Rockefeller

7-State Wildlife

5-Sabine Island

7-Marsh Island

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REGION 6

TOTAL CASES-241

WMA&REFUGES-14

88-Boating

93-Angling W/O A License

6-Angling W/O Non-Resident License

10-Fish W/O Resident Pole License

2-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

2-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

3-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

1-Take/Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

4-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

1-Sell Commercial Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealers License

7-Fail To Maintain Records

3-Buy Commercial Fish From Unlicensed Fisherman

1-Use Illegal Mesh Nets Freshwater

1-Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs

1-Take/Possess Alligators Closed Season

1-Possession Of Live Alligator Without Permit

4-Take/Possess Undersize White Shrimp

1-Trawl State Waters Closed Season

1-Driving On Levee

REGION 6 CONT'D

4-Buy Deer Or Meat

5-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

1-Resisting An Officer

CONFISCATIONS:

130 lbs. undersize shrimp, 4 shrimp baskets, check in the amount of \$58.50, 555 lbs. undersize white shrimp, 14 shrimp baskets, check in the amount of \$249.75, 620 lbs. undersize white shrimp, 17 shrimp baskets, check in the amount of \$279.00, 30 lbs. undersize white shrimp, 3 shrimp baskets, check in the amount of \$135.00, 37 lbs shrimp, check in the amount of \$55.50, 3 black bass, 3 boats, 2 alligators, 1 basic fishing license, 6 boxes crabs, 1 gill net.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6:

88-Boating

113-Sport Fishing

27-Commercial Fishing

2-Alligator

1-Hunting

4-Deer/Bear

5-Rules And Regs. On WMA

2-Misc.

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA AND REFUGES:

14-Sherburne

REGION 7

TOTAL CASES-250

WMA&REFUGES-1

86-Boating

81-Fishing W/O License

11-Fishing W/O Non-Resident License

13-Fish W/O Cane Pole License

3-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

1-Failure To Have Commercial License In Possession

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

3-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Vessel License

2-Buy Commercial Fish From Unlicensed Commercial Fisherman

1-Take Game Fish Illegally

3-Sell Fish W/O Wholesale Retail License

3-Failure To Maintain Records

2-Illegal Fishing Of Slat Traps

2-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish

1-Sell Fish W/O A Retail Seafood Dealers License

1-Failure To Mark Soft Shell Crab Container

1-Theft Of Crab Traps

1-Possess Undersize Crabs

4-Buy For Resale Untagged Oysters

REGION 7 CONT'D

- 4-Introduce Unlabeled Oysters Into Commerce**
- 4-Failure To Maintain Traceable Oyster Records**
- 1-Failure To Obtain Import Permit**
- 1-Prepackage Of Oysters**
- 4-Buy Or Sell Deer Parts**
- 4-Principle To Sell Of Deer Meat**
- 1-Hunt Turkeys Over Bait**
- 1-Sell Non-Game Quadruped Meat Closed Season**
- 1-Operate On Scenic River**
- 2-Criminal Trespass**
- 2-DWI**
- 1-Littering**
- 1-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA**
- 1-Seafood Sanitary Code**

CONFISCATIONS:

37 coons, 12 soft shell crabs, 3 quarts oysters

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 86-Boating | 11-Other | 8-Deer |
| 33-Commercial Fishing | 108-Sport Fishing | 1-Littering |
| 1-Rules And Regs. On WMA | 5-Public Assistance | |
| 2-Hunting | | |

Page (14)

REGION 7 CONT'D

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA AND REFUGES:

1-Bens Creeks

Page (15)

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES-169

WMA&REFUGES-14

36-Boating

70-Angling W/O A Basic License

5-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

1-Use Gear W/O A Recreational License

1-Angling W/O A Non-Resident Saltwater License

2-Take Game Fish (Bass) Illegally

3-Take Or Posses Undersize Red Drum

3-Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum

1-Take Or Possess Over The Limit Of Black Drum

3-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial License

3-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

1-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Vessel License

1-Sell Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

1-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish

1-Use Saltwater Gill Net Illegally

1-Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings

1-Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs

1-Fail To Comply With Speckled Trout Take Regs.

2-Use Illegal Mesh Freshwater Gill Net

1-Commercial Truck W/O Display Of Owner Name And Address

REGION 8 CONT'D

7-Failure To Have Written Permission

4-Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms

1-Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly

1-Buying Or Selling For Resale Untagged Oysters

3-Harvest Oysters From Unmarked Lease

1-Take Or Possess Alligators Closed Season

1-Illegal Possession of Alligators

1-Take Commercial Fish On Federal Refuge

4-Violation Of Sanitary Code (Fail To Refrigerate Properly)

5-Violation Of Sanitary Code (Vessel Regulations)

2-Other

1-Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

1,087 lbs. crabs, 81 sacks oysters, 25 lbs. shad, 80 black drum, 50 sheepshead, 22 red drum, 9 flounder, 4 speckled trout, 4 gar, 3 carp, 676 lbs. speckled trout, 5 bass, 4 red drum, 27 black drum, 2 catfish, 2 flounder, 1 alligator, 3 nets totaling 1,350 feet, 1 fiberglass motorboat, 1 outboard motor.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8:

36-Boating

86-Recreational Fishing

42-Commercial Fishing

Page (17)

REGION 8 CONT'D

2-Alligator

3-Other

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA AND REFUGES:

2-Biloxi

11-Pas A Loutre

1-Salvador

SHRIMP ACTIVITY REPORT

REGION 8

COMPLAINTS

1. No shrimp complaints were received this month. Activity was very minimal-all inside waters closed. Activity in outside waters minimal and in compliance.

PATROLS

1. Regular saltwater patrols by boat have been continued. Very few shrimpers active.

INQUIRIES

1. We received a few inquiries for TED information, which were referred to the LSU Cooperative Extension Service Fisheries Agent Gerald Horst.
2. We received a few calls regarding Breton and Chandeleur Sounds and the new law regarding trawl size in outside waters and mesh size for inside waters.

CASES

No shrimp cases were made this month.

No seizures.

Page (19)

REGION 9

TOTAL CASES-177

WMA&REFUGES-21

56-Boating

35-Angling W/O A License

6-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

1-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

7-Angling W/O Saltwater License

3-Angling W/O Saltwater License Non-Resident

6-Fail To Have Saltwater Stamp

3-Fail To Have Saltwater Fish Intact

4-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

2-Take Undersize Red Drum

6-Take Undersize Black Drum

2-Take O/L Black Drum

1-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regs. Over Limit Of Red Snapper

1-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regs. By Taking Amberjack Closed Season

1-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regs. By Purchasing Amberjack Closed Season

6-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

6-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

3-Take Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

2-Buy And Sell Fish W/O Non-Resident Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

1-Commercial Sell To Other Than Wholesale/Retail Dealer

REGION 9 CONT'D

2-Take Commercial Fish With Non-Approved Device

2-Use Saltwater Net Illegally (Gill)

1-Fail To Comply With Federal Law In EEZ

2-Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings

1-Unlawful Removal Trap Contents

1-Allow Another To Use Commercial License

1-Allow Unlicensed Person To Use Gear License

1-Theft Of Crab Trap

1-Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs

1-Trawl In Closed Season Inside Waters

1-Violate Shrimp Provision/Oyster Bayou

3-Unlawfully Take Oyster State Waters

3-Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area

2-Unlawful Take Oysters Off A Private Lease

2-Littering

1-Violation Of Sanitary Code Failure To Refrigerate Properly

CONFISCATIONS:

**150 lbs. garfish, 2 flounders, 500 lbs. crabs, 3 speckled trout, 64 black drum, 8 black bass,
4 lbs. fish fillets, 70 lbs. red snapper, 17 red drum, 32 sacks oysters, 34 lbs. Amberjack, 2½**

REGION 9 CONT'D

sacks crawfish, 2 deer, 2 perch, 1 rifle, 1 trawl net, 4 butterfly nets, 2 boats and motors, 600 ft. gill net, 2 ice chests, 1 crab trap, 1 commercial license, 1 purchase sales receipt, 1 spotlight.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9:

56-Boating

75-Sport Fishing

33-Commercial Fishing

2-Trawling

8-Oysters

3-Other

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA AND REFUGES:

10-Point Au Chene

11-Atchafalaya Delta

SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

TOTAL CASES-22

1-Not Abide By Commission Rules And Regs. Over Limit Red Snapper

1-Failure To Comply With Federal Law In EEZ

1-Injuring Public Records

1-Filing False Public Records

1-Failure To Report Commercial Fisheries Data

4-Sell Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

2-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish

2-Failure To Maintain Records

1-Possess Or Sell Undersized Crabs (10% to 19%)

1-Sell Undersize Crabs (10% to 19%)

1-Take Commercial Fish With Non-Approved Device

2-Not Abiding By Commission Rules and Regs. (Take Amberjack Closed Season)

1-Use Salt Water Net Illegally

1-Take Salt Water Commercial Fish With Net Closed Season

1-Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum

1-Failure To Have Intact

CONFISCATIONS:

70 lbs. red snapper, 5 crates crabs, 6 flounder, 34 lbs. greater amberjack, 676 lbs. speckled trout, 5 lbs. black drum, 4 lbs. black drum fillet.

Page (23)

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT:

2-Recreational

20-Commercial

Page (24)

S.W.E.P.

74 HOURS RUNNING TIME

60 HOURS SEARCH AND RESCUE

79 BOATS CHECKED

10 CASES

1-Boating

7-Angling W/O A License

2-Angling W/O Non-Resident License

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR S.W.E.P.:

1-Boating

9-Recreational Fishing

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL CASES- 36

1-Boating

1-Sanitary Code Violation (Failure To Refrigerate Oysters)

1-Failure To Purchase Wholesale/Retail Dealers License

1-Sell Untagged Oysters

2-Take Oysters W/O Commercial Vessel License

2-Unlawfully Taking Oysters From a Private Lease

3-Failure To Cover Oysters With Tarp

7-Failure To Complete Harvester/Dealer Log Book

1-Prepackaging Oysters

1-Failure To Maintain Records On Oysters Purchased

2-Take Crabs W/O Commercial License

1-Take Crabs W/O A Vessel License

1-Unlawful Removal Of Contents Of Crab Traps

1-Failure To Have Written Permission To Run Crab Traps

1-Take Shrimp W/O Commercial Fishing License

2-Take Shrimp W/O Commercial Gear License

2-Take Shrimp W/O Commercial Vessel License

2-Failure To Comply With Anchoring Restriction In Oyster Bayou

1-Angling W/O A Basic License

1-Fishing W/O A Saltwater License

Page (26)

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE CONTD.

1-Fishing W/O A Marine Conservation Stamp

1-Fishing W/O A Non-Resident License

CONFISCATIONS:

68 sacks oysters, 3 pints oysters, 300 lbs. crabs, 4 butterfly nets,

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE:

1-Boating

31-Commercial Fishing

4-Recreational Fishing

SPECIAL STRIKE FORCE

WMA&REFUGES-3

TOTAL CASES-48

18-Boating

14-Angle W/O A License

2-Take And Possess Commercial Fish W/O A License

1-Sell And Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail License

2-Transport W/O Required License

1-Illegal Shipping of Commercial Fish Shipping Regs. Tags and Identification

1-Taking Fish Illegally

1-Possess Or Sell Undersize Crabs (10% To 19%)

1-Buying Or Selling Deer Or Meat

1-Taking Or Possessing Alligator Closed Season

1-Possession Of Live Alligators W/O A Permit

3-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

2-Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

3 ft. alligator, 6 flounder, 4 boxes crabs.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SPECIAL STRIKE FORCE:

18-Boating

2-Misc.

14-Sport Fishing

3-WMA

8-Commercial Fishing

2-Alligator

1-Deer

Page (28)

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA AND REFUGES:

3-DEWEY WILLS

Page (29)

TOTAL CASES WMA&REFUGES- 179

TOTAL CASES -1432

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
APRIL, 1998

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 185-Amph. - 61092 | 185-Float - 70365 | 210 - 9467Y |
| Hrs. - 8.5 | Hrs. - 3.3 | Hrs. - 16.4 |

Enforcement Hours - 21.9

Other Divisions - 6.3

Total Plane Use - 28.2

| 1998 | | September | | | 1998 | |
|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

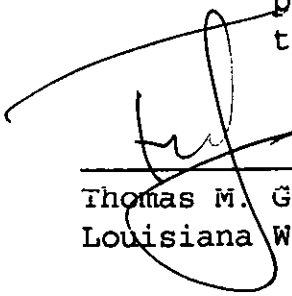
RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

May 7, 1998

- WHEREAS,** all wildlife in the State including wild white-tailed deer is by law owned by the State in its sovereign capacity, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Constitution grants the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission the exclusive regulatory authority over said wildlife, and
- WHEREAS,** wild animals including wild deer can only be taken or possessed for private use under particular laws and regulations, namely, the provisions of Title 56 of the Revised Statutes and regulations adopted pursuant thereto by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and
- WHEREAS,** hunting is and has always been a highly regulated activity incident to the management, control and conservation of the wildlife resources of the State, and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, along with their predecessor agencies, have always been the exclusive agencies of government designated to manage and regulate all hunting activities in this State, and
- WHEREAS,** the Commission and the Department have a constitutional public trust obligation to manage, protect, preserve and conserve the wildlife resources of the State for the benefit of all of the citizens of the State, and
- WHEREAS,** this Commission strongly objects to any attempt to privatize for commercial gain the wild white-tailed deer of this State, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has attempted through its regulation of deer farming to improperly and illegally regulate hunting activities, and permit the privatization for commercial gain of wild white-tailed deer, and
- WHEREAS,** this Commission has a legal, ethical, and moral obligation to oppose any such efforts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, through its attorneys, shall continue to oppose by every legal means available to it, including the current lawsuit, any attempt by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry: (1) to regulate hunting activities, or (2) to allow or permit the privatization for commercial gain of any wild white-tailed deer of this State.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

faxed 3:40 PM

C O V E R



FAX

S H E E T

To: Marilyn Rotolo

Fax #: 504-657-5180

Subject: Commission Meeting of 5/7/98

Date: May 8, 1998

Pages: 7, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Enclosed are copies of the information you requested from the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission Meeting of May 7, 1998. Thank you.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

SCHEDULE FOR FINAL RULES TO BE PUBLISHED IN STATE REGISTER

| | |
|------------------|--|
| MAY-98 | RULE - Apprentice Fisherman License |
| JUNE-98 | RULE - Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission - Reef Fish |
| | RULE - White-Tailed Deer Importation |
| | RULE - Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission - Reef Fish |
| JULY-98 | RULE - 1998-99 Hunting Regulations |
| AUG-98 | RULE - Netting Prohibition, John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir |
| | RULE - Commercial Fisherman's Dealer Receipt Forms |
| SEPT-98?? | RULE - Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer & Exotics |
| | RULE - Commercial Fisherman's Assistance Program |

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 1-MAY-1998

CURRENT MONTH 04/01/1998 TO 04/30/1998 FISCAL YEAR TO DATE 07/01/1997 TO 04/30/1998 INCEPTION TO DATE 04/30/1998

ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION

| # CASES | AMOUNT | # CASES | AMOUNT | # CASES | AMOUNT |
|---------|------------|---------|--------------|---------|----------------|
| 10 | \$5,628.21 | 211 | \$207,985.04 | 3,587 | \$2,467,042.86 |
| 0 | \$0.00 | 6 | \$150.00 | 139 | \$3,475.00 |
| 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 331 | \$269,865.45- |
| 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 148 | \$71,951.21 |

RESTITUTION ASSESSED

PAYMENTS
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS
OVERPAYMENTS
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.
RETURNED CHECKS
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS

** TOTAL OUTSTANDING

1,017 \$1,570,340.13

FOOTNOTE:

PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT
AMOUNT PAID TO COLLECTOR
FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS

| | | | | | |
|---|--------|---|------------|----|--------------|
| 0 | \$0.00 | 2 | \$49.00 | 57 | \$11,069.67 |
| 0 | \$0.00 | 2 | \$12.25 | | \$2,767.41 |
| 0 | \$0.00 | 2 | \$3,202.60 | 3 | \$3,202.60 * |

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 1-MAY-1998

| AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES | | AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN | | CAN NOT BE INVOICED CURRENT | |
| 1 - 30 DAYS | 0 | | 5 |
| 31 - 60 DAYS | 4 | 1 - 30 DAYS | 7 |
| 61 - 90 DAYS | 15 | | 5 |
| 91 - 120 DAYS | 15 | 31 - 90 DAYS | 24 |
| 121 - 150 DAYS | 7 | | |
| 151 - 180 DAYS | 0 | | |
| 181 - 365 DAYS | 7 | 91 - 180 DAYS | 19 |
| OVER ONE YEAR | 81 | 181 - 365 DAYS | 26 |
| OVER TWO YEARS | 149 | CASES SENT FOR COLLECTION | 109 |
| OVER THREE YEARS | 168 | OVER 1 YEAR PENDING | 0 |
| | 143 | OVER 1 YEAR (OTHER) | 822 |
| | ===== | | ===== |
| ** TOTAL AGING | 589 | ** TOTAL AGING | 1,017 |
| | \$455,891.43 | | \$1,570,340.13 |

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

| PERIOD | NO. CASES ASSESSED | AMOUNT ASSESSED | CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS | NO. CASES PAID | AMOUNT PAID | DISCOUNTS TAKEN | Percent Dollars Paid | Percent Cases Paid |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| FISCAL YEAR 1993-94 | | | | | | | | |
| July, 1993 | 25 | 21,039 | (9,778) | 29 | 4,855 | 2,545 | | |
| Aug., 1993 | 53 | 44,922 | (1,137) | 41 | 7,950 | 3,603 | | |
| Sept., 1993 | 42 | 137,635 | (17,938) | 35 | 6,783 | 3,048 | | |
| Oct., 1993 | 49 | 21,471 | (11,282) | 40 | 3,285 | 1,519 | | |
| Nov., 1993 | 57 | 31,207 | (13,260) | 32 | 3,053 | 2,845 | | |
| Dec., 1993 | 53 | 13,777 | | 27 | 6,507 | 6,713 | | |
| Jan., 1994 | 38 | 18,918 | | 32 | 4,423 | 2,831 | | |
| Feb., 1994 | 68 | 38,131 | (8,238) | 46 | 9,124 | 5,993 | | |
| Mar., 1994 | 38 | 22,739 | (2,482) | 51 | 10,854 | 6,796 | | |
| April, 1994 | 14 | 44,732 | (1,404) | 27 | 7,307 | 4,632 | | |
| May, 1994 | 10 | 4,504 | (165) | 7 | 5,447 | 3,808 | | |
| June, 1994 | 29 | 26,167 | (2,986) | 12 | 1,886 | 1,214 | | |
| Total FY 1994 | 476 | 425,242 | (68,670) | 379 | 71,474 | 45,547 | 27.5% | 79.6% |
| FISCAL YEAR 1994-95 | | | | | | | | |
| July, 1994 | 17 | 2,127 | (335) | 23 | 2,101 | 1,437 | | |
| Aug., 1994 | 41 | 96,403 | (3,035) | 20 | 1,010 | 605 | | |
| Sept., 1994 | 34 | 14,614 | (14,002) | 26 | 2,596 | 2,342 | | |
| Oct., 1994 | 94 | 17,426 | (8,677) | 38 | 2,922 | 3,179 | | |
| Nov., 1994 | 43 | 103,592 | | 45 | 3,992 | 2,803 | | |
| Dec., 1994 | 68 | 31,400 | | 35 | 4,315 | 2,329 | | |
| Jan., 1995 | 55 | 27,601 | | 52 | 7,493 | 4,921 | | |
| Feb., 1995 | 70 | 61,119 | | 41 | 6,472 | 3,973 | | |
| Mar., 1995 | 31 | 25,072 | | 44 | 8,315 | 4,737 | | |
| Apr., 1995 | 13 | 15,353 | | 16 | 3,565 | 1,538 | | |
| May., 1995 | 23 | 11,632 | | 16 | 4,315 | 654 | | |
| June 1995 | 45 | 31,008 | | 18 | 2,630 | 1,025 | | |
| Total FY 1995 | 534 | 437,347 | (26,049) | 374 | 49,726 | 29,543 | 18.1% | 70.0% |
| FISCAL YEAR 1995-96 | | | | | | | | |
| July, 1995 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| Aug., 1995 | 46 | 17,425 | | 27 | 9,028 | 1,729 | | |
| Sept., 1995 | 1 | 125 | | 21 | 3,093 | 2,049 | | |
| Oct., 1995 | 122 | 206,244 | | 29 | 2,720 | 1,161 | | |
| Nov., 1995 | 55 | 23,124 | | 62 | 10,151 | 6,383 | | |
| Dec., 1995 | 50 | 18,607 | | 32 | 4,781 | 2,803 | | |
| Jan., 1996 | 49 | 13,815 | (15,296) | 36 | 5,297 | 3,473 | | |
| Feb., 1996 | 50 | 14,717 | | 38 | 5,778 | 3,417 | | |
| Mar., 1996 | 33 | 24,937 | | 36 | 6,035 | 3,422 | | |
| Apr., 1996 | 30 | 11,007 | | 36 | 7,173 | 2,712 | | |
| May., 1996 | 23 | 7,989 | | 24 | 3,942 | 2,020 | | |
| June 1996 | 50 | 22,151 | | 16 | 2,790 | 1,182 | | |
| Total FY 1996 | 509 | 360,141 | (15,296) | 357 | 60,787 | 30,350 | 25.3% | 70.1% |
| FISCAL YEAR 1996-97 | | | | | | | | |
| July, 1996 | 40 | 71,894 | | 32 | 5,250 | 2,948 | | |
| Aug., 1996 | 32 | 5,363 | | 32 | 6,255 | 3,784 | | |
| Sept., 1996 | 41 | 7,210 | | 29 | 2,260 | 1,327 | | |
| Oct., 1996 | 29 | 11,093 | | 25 | 3,698 | 2,262 | | |
| Nov., 1996 | 20 | 10,009 | | 22 | 1,625 | 698 | | |
| Dec., 1996 | 13 | 238,466 | | 22 | 5,877 | 2,122 | | |
| Jan., 1997 | 27 | 11,755 | | 17 | 4,393 | 2,377 | | |
| Feb., 1997 | 47 | 18,521 | | 42 | 8,580 | 5,553 | | |
| Mar., 1997 | 26 | 13,434 | | 27 | 5,000 | 2,758 | | |
| Apr., 1997 | 10 | 2,909 | | 15 | 2,323 | 1,299 | | |
| May., 1997 | 20 | 11,683 | | 15 | 5,199 | 1,399 | | |
| June 1997 | 5 | 8,037 | | 10 | 2,335 | 765 | | |
| Total FY 1997 | 310 | 410,373 | 0 | 288 | 52,794 | 27,290 | 19.5% | 92.9% |
| FISCAL YEAR 1997 - 98 | | | | | | | | |
| July, 1997 | 10 | 2,812 | | 8 | 1,585 | 823 | | |
| Aug., 1997 | 14 | 8,741 | | 8 | 1,496 | 779 | | |
| Sept., 1997 | 29 | 19,926 | | 12 | 2,052 | 1,278 | | |
| Oct., 1997 | 12 | 4,717 | | 23 | 3,185 | 2,064 | | |
| Nov., 1997 | 23 | 54,965 | | 10 | 2,425 | 1,218 | | |
| Dec., 1997 | 25 | 36,881 | | 15 | 4,377 | 2,776 | | |
| Jan., 1998 | 42 | 30,026 | | 17 | 5,300 | 3,534 | | |
| Feb., 1998 | 37 | 31,165 | | 29 | 22,962 | 8,501 | | |
| Mar., 1998 | 9 | 13,273 | | 32 | 9,407 | 4,372 | | |
| Apr., 1998 | 10 | 5,628 | | 10 | 2,603 | 1,280 | | |
| May., 1998 | | | | | | | | |
| June 1998 | | | | | | | | |
| Total FY 1998 | 211 | 208,135 | 0 | 164 | 55,391 | 26,624 | 39.4% | 77.7% |

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
May 7, 1998
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of April 2, 1998
3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. Report on Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Conservation Plan - Gary Lester
5. Declaration of Emergency - Setting 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season - Mark Schexnayder
6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Daily Take Possession & Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish (Red Snapper Recreational Bag Limit) - Harry Blanchet
7. Notice of Intent - Non-Resident Charterboat License Fees - Janis Landry
8. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan - Wynnette Kees
9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/April - Winton Vidrine
10. Division Reports
 - a. Urban Wildlife & Nuisance Animal Complaint Program - Jimmy Ernst
11. Set September 1998 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC (Executive Session)
14. Adjourn

*Atchafalaya
ATV public hearing*

*deer stands removal daily
16 m² area*

*still hunt petition
Tangipahoa Parish*

(179)

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

98-127

5/1/98

MAY COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will conduct its next regular meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 7, 1998 in the Louisiana room of the Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The meeting is open to the public. The agenda follows.

1. Roll call.
2. Approval of minutes of April 2, 1998.
3. Public comments—1998-99 resident game hunting seasons.
4. Report on red-cockaded woodpecker habitat conservation plan.
5. Declaration of emergency—setting 1998 spring inshore shrimp season.
6. Declaration of emergency and notice of intent—daily take, season and size limits set by Commission, reef fish (red snapper recreational bag limit).
7. Notice of intent—non-resident charter boat license fees.
8. Discussion of Department's strategic plan.
9. Enforcement and aviation reports/April.
10. Division reports
 - a. Urban wildlife and nuisance animal complaint program.
11. Set September 1998 meeting date.
12. Public comments.
13. Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC (Executive Session).
14. Adjourn.

-30-

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

98-128

5/1/98

HUNTING REGULATIONS COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Hunting Regulations Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will meet at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 7, 1998 in the fourth floor conference room of the Wildlife and Fisheries building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

Bowhunting devices and other potential changes in the resident game hunting regulations will be discussed at the meeting.

-30-

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

April 29, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: May Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 7, 1998, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of April 2, 1998

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. Report on Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Conservation Plan

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

5. Declaration of Emergency - Setting 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season
6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Daily Take, Possession & Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish (Red Snapper Recreational Bag Limit)

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & FINANCE

7. Notice of Intent - Non-Resident Charterboat License Fees
8. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan

Page 2
Commission Meeting
April 29, 1998

WINTON VIDRINE

9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/April
10. Division Reports
 - a. Urban Wildlife & Nuisance Animal Complaint Program
11. Set September 1998 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC (Executive Session)

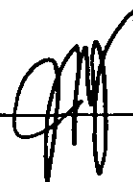
JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Ron Couvillion
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

April 29, 1998

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____



AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

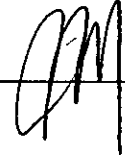
The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 7, 1998, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of April 2, 1998
3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. Report on Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Conservation Plan
5. Declaration of Emergency - Setting 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season
6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Daily Take, Possession & Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish (Red Snapper Recreational Bag Limit)
7. Notice of Intent - Non-Resident Charterboat License Fees
8. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan
9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/April
10. Division Reports
 - a. Urban Wildlife & Nuisance Animal Complaint Program
11. Set September 1998 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC (Executive Session)
14. Adjourn

April 28, 1998

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____



AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 7, 1998, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of April 2, 1998
3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. Report on Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Conservation Plan
5. Declaration of Emergency - Setting 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season
6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Daily Take, Possession & Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish (Red Snapper Recreational Bag Limit)
7. Notice of Intent - Non-Resident Charterboat License Fees
8. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan
9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/April
10. Division Reports
 - a. Urban Wildlife & Nuisance Animal Complaint Program
11. Set September 1998 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Adjourn

C O V E R



FAX

S H E E T

To: Tom Gattle, 318-559-1524
Bill Busbice, 318-837-1423
Jerald Hanchey, 318-233-3534
Glynn Carver, 318-256-0323
Norman McCall, 318-775-7025
Tom Kelly, 318-276-7867
Danny Babin, 504-563-4202

Subject: Commission Agenda

Date: April 29, 1998

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Original memorandum and back-up material will follow in the mail.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

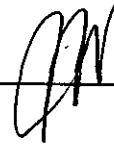
La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

April 28, 1998

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____



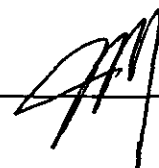
AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 7, 1998, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of April 2, 1998
3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. Report on Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Conservation Plan
5. Declaration of Emergency - Setting 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season
6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Daily Take, Possession & Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish (Red Snapper Recreational Bag Limit)
7. Notice of Intent - Non-Resident Charterboat License Fees
8. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan
9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/April
10. Division Reports
 - a. Urban Wildlife & Nuisance Animal Complaint Program
11. Set September 1998 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Adjourn

April 28, 1998

APPROVED: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long vertical stroke, positioned over the line for the APPROVED field.

HUNTING REGULATIONS COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Hunting Regulations Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will meet on Thursday, May 7, 1998, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM, will be to discuss bowhunting devices and other potential changes in the resident game hunting regulations.

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

April 28, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hunting Regulations Committee
FROM: Susan Hawkins *Susan Hawkins*
SUBJECT: Committee Meeting

Chairman Tom Gattle has called a meeting of the Hunting Regulations Committee for 9:00 AM, Thursday, May 7, 1998 in the Fourth Floor Conference Room. Items to be discussed are on the attached agenda.

Please let us know if you will be unable to attend. Thank you.

sch

cc: James Jenkins, Jr.
Johnnie Tarver
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Tommy Prickett

Attachment

HUNTING REGULATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

May 7, 1998

1. Draw-Loc Archery System
2. ATV Restrictions
3. Extension of Squirrel Season
4. Requested Deer Season Change in Vernon and Rapides
Parishes
5. Hunting from Airplanes

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Tom Gattle, 318-559-1524
Bill Busbice, 318-837-1423
Jerald Hanchey, 318-233-3534
Glynn Carver, 318-256-0323

Subject: Hunting Regulations Committee Meeting

Date: April 28, 1998

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

27 April 98

TO: Chairman Tom Gattle

FROM: Tommy Prickett

Archery

In reference to the Bayou State Bowhunters letter opposing the Draw-Loc system I was mistaken. The letter has not yet arrived. Dave Moreland spoke to Russell Latnier and they are opposed; the letter is being sent this week.

Other items we would like to discuss if you agree are; ATV restrictions, extension of squirrel season, and a requested deer season change in Vernon and Rapides parishes.

Cc Hugh A. Bateman

State of Louisiana



Revised 4/29/98

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

April 28, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: May Commission Meeting Agenda

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "JHJ", written over the "FROM" line of the memorandum.

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 7, 1998, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of April 2, 1998

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. Report on Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Conservation Plan

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

5. Declaration of Emergency - Setting 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season
6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Daily Take, Possession & Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish (Red Snapper Recreational Bag Limit)

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & FINANCE

7. Notice of Intent - Non-Resident Charterboat License Fees
8. Discussion of Dept's Strategic Plan

Page 2
Commission Meeting
April 28, 1998

WINTON VIDRINE

8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/April
9. Division Reports
 - a. Urban Wildlife & Nuisance Animal Complaint Program
10. Set September 1998 Meeting Date
11. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Ron Couvillion
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

April 28, 1998

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____



AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 7, 1998, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of April 2, 1998
3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
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7. Notice of Intent - Non-Resident Charterboat License Fees
8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/April
9. Division Reports
 - a. Urban Wildlife & Nuisance Animal Complaint Program
10. Set September 1998 Meeting Date
11. Public Comments
12. Adjourn

faxed 3:43PM

C O V E R



FAX

S H E E T

To: Tom Gattle

Fax #: 318-559-1524

Subject: May Agenda

Date: April 24, 1998

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please review the attached and then give me a call. Thanks.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: May Commission Meeting Agenda

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The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of April 2, 1998

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3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
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5. Declaration of Emergency - Setting 1998 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season
6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Daily Take, Possession & Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish (Red Snapper Recreational Bag Limit)

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & FINANCE

7. Notice of Intent - Non-Resident Charterboat License Fees

Page 2
Commission Meeting
, 1998

WINTON VIDRINE

8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/April
9. Division Reports
 - a. Urban Wildlife & Nuisance Animal Complaint Program
10. Set September 1998 Meeting Date
11. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Ron Couvillion
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

Susan:

Wildlife Division

Agenda Items: May '98 Comm. Meeting

1- Public Comments, 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons

2- Deer Farming, Importation Rule Ratification

3- Deer Farming, Hunting Seasons, Notice of Intent

AB

Fur + Refuge

^{Report on}
Red-Cockaded
Woodpecker Habitat
Conservation Plan -
Gary

Division Report:

Urban Wildlife +
Misuse Animal
Complaint Program -
Jimmy Ernst

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

April 3, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - May 7, 1998

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, April 16 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, May 7th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on May 7th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman ✓
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

4-15-98
Susan: Agenda Items - Wildlife Division

1- Public Comments: 98-99 Hunting Seasons

A) STAFF Recommended changes:

a) Add one week to length of
squirrel hunting season, to Feb.

6) ~~SMALLER~~ SMALLER size limitations of ATV's
on WMAs (400 cc)

c)

1 -

cc Mr. TAYLOR

(See Attached)

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

April 3, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - May 7, 1998

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Return to Karen by April 15

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote ✓
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

| ROUTING LIST | DATE: |
|--------------------------|---------|
| ROUSSEL | |
| FOOTE | KP |
| BOUDREAUX | 4/13/98 |
| BLANCHET | |
| DUGAS | 4/13/98 |
| HANIFEN | 4/13/98 |
| SAVORE Thomas | |
| SCHEXNAYDER | 4/17/98 |
| SHEPARD | |
| J. M. Delo | 4/13/98 |
| K. H. Smith | 4/13/98 |

[Handwritten signature and scribbles over the routing list table]

*DOE, NOI - Daily take, Possession and Size limits set by Commission, Reefish - Red Snapper Recreational Bag limit
* inshore spring shrimp opening*

An Equal Opportunity Employer

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

April 3, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
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FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

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cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

Enforcement Report!
WV

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

April 3, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
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JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot ✓
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

4/13/98

Susan,
Bennie Ron no
agenda items.
Glan

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

April 3, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

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cc: Commissioners
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Winton Vidrine
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Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

MARILYN T. ROTOLO
Secretary

LOUISIANA SEAFOOD MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

P.O. Box 366
Empire, LA 70050
Ph. (504) 657-8240
FAX (504) 657-~~1750~~

5130

5) Resolution / Dec. of Emergency
1998 Inshore Shrimp Season

6) Red Snapper

7) Charter Boats